Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-100
Tuesday
24 May 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-100 *24 May 1994*

CONTENTS

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

EU Association Talks With Baltics To Begin in 1994 *[BNS]* 1
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 24 May 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reportage on UK Foreign Secretary Hurd's Visit 3
Meets With Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Meets With Chernomyrdin on Economic Issues *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Visits Murmansk *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Discusses Cooperation With Kozyrev *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Discusses Crimea, Bosnia, NATO *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Discusses Crimea With Rybkin *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Says G-7 Welcomes Russia's Membership *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Calls Meetings 'Most Useful' *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Diplomat Comments on Hurd-Kozyrev Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
First-Ever Russian Submarine Arrives in UK *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
NATO Undecided How To Treat Russian Approach to PFP *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 May]* 7
Official: Russia's Partnership With NATO 'Reality' *[INTERFAX]* 7
Independent Academics Endorse PFP Program *[IZVESTIYA 24 May]* 8
Prospects of Russia Joining NATO PFP Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 9
War With Ukraine Over Crimea Seen Unlikely *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 24 May]* 11
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Ukraine-Crimea Issue *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Churkin Fears 'Yugoslav Version' of Crimea *[INTERFAX]* 12
Talks With Ukraine on Crimea, Black Sea Fleet Open *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Chernomyrdin Talks Take Break *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Russian-Ukrainian Talks Resume *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Grachev Comments on Crimea at German Troop Headquarters *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Further on Grachev Remarks *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Filatov Blames Ukrainian Politicians for Crimea Tension *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Diplomat Advocates Dual Citizenship for Crimeans *[INTERFAX]* 14
Yeltsin Plans Moscow Summit With PRC's Jiang *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Chernomyrdin Upcoming PRC Visit of 'Great Significance' *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Further Development of Economic Ties Planned *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Difficulties Seen as 'Temporary' *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Chinese Criminal Activity in Moscow Area Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 16
ROK Hopes for Russian Aid in Nuclear Problem *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
ROK President Previews Upcoming 1-4 Jun Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Rybkin Meets Slovak National Council Delegation *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Kozyrev to Tallinn 23 May for Baltic Sea Meeting *[Radio Rossii]* 18
Russian Minister Calls for Ending Sanctions on Abkhazia *[IBERIA 23 May]* 18

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Appoints Rybkin to Security Council *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Yeltsin Sets Up Liaison Department With Parliament *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Deputy Privatization Minister Dismissed *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Yeltsin Edict on Social Policy Council *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 19
Yeltsin Meets 'Union of 12 December' Members *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Yeltsin To Sign Counterintelligence Document *[IZVESTIYA 24 May]* 20
Filatov on Yeltsin's Decision To Meet Dudayev *[ITAR-TASS]* 20

Shakhray Interviewed on Dismissal *[Moscow TV]* 21
Zhirinovskiy Denies Bribery Charge *[Russian TV]* 22
Zhirinovskiy Charges Use of Foreign Funds in Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Zhirinovskiy Discusses Political Situation *[Tokyo TV]* 23
Rutskoy Defends Public Speeches *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 21 May]* 25
Soyuz Group Calls For Revival of 'Unified Union' *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 21 May]* 26
Burbulis Interviewed on Yeltsin, Politics *[Moscow TV]* 27

Media Issues

Shumeyko Sees Media Bill Violating Ban on Censorship *[INTERFAX]* 28
Annulment of Communist Paper Registration Ordered
[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 22 May] 28
IZVESTIYA Hits Censorship Reimposition Attempts *[21 May]* 29
ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Most Popular Paper *[Radio Rossii]* 29

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Collection of Taxes, Duties *[INTERFAX]* 29
Yeltsin Edict on Reforming State Enterprises *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Yeltsin To Lower Tax Burden on Producers *[INTERFAX]* 31
Further on Yeltsin Decrees on Production Issues *[INTERFAX]* 31
Edict Lifts Quotas, Licenses on Export Goods, Services *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Aide Holds Briefing on Economic Reform Edicts *[TRUD 24 May]* 32
Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discusses Economic Decrees *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Deputy Minister Urges Fixed Ruble Exchange Rate *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Dubinin Reprimanded for Failing To Provide Financing *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Influx of Refugees Strains Local Resources *[IZVESTIYA 20 May]* 33

Military & Space Issues

Development of 'Smart' Weapons Priority *[SEGODNYA 24 May]* 34
Deputy Supports Higher Defense Expenditure *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 24 May]* 34
Defense Unions Concerned With Cutbacks *[INTERFAX]* 34
Grachev Orders Economies in Defense Ministry Funds *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Ground Force Chief Cited on Recruiting Reservists *[IZVESTIYA 21 May]* 35
Progress M-23 Docks With Mir Space Complex *[ITAR-TASS]* 36

Federal Assembly

Duma To Examine Local Constitutions *[SEGODNYA 24 May]* 36
Rybkin Regarded Most Influential Duma Deputy *[KURANTY 20 May]* 37

Regional Affairs

Shumeyko Tours Strategic Missile Units in Ivanovo *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Troops Increase Control in Ingushetia-Ossetia Zone *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Kostikov Appeals to Residents *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Munitions in Maritime Kray To Be Defused *[Russian TV]* 39
Voronezh Oblast To Accept Tax Payments in Kind *[IZVESTIYA 21 May]* 39
St. Petersburg Property Fund Chief Interviewed *[NEVSKOYE VREMYA 18 May]* 39
Oblast Communist Party Head Interviewed *[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK 18 May]* 40

UKRAINE

International Affairs

UK's Hurd To Discuss Crimea With President Kravchuk *[INTERFAX]* 42
Hurd Arrives in Kiev *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Ambassador Confirms UK Stance on Crimea Unchanged *[Kiev TV]* 42
Christopher Message Supports Government Crimean Stance *[Kiev Radio]* 42

German Foreign Minister Voices Support for Kiev Over Crimea *[Kiev TV]* 42
Moldovan Official Meets Envoy, Voices Support on Crimea *[Kiev Radio]* 43
Kiev Did Not Suggest UN Discussion on Crimea *[INTERFAX]* 43
Shmarov Views Military Conversion Program, U.S. Aid *[Kiev Radio]* 43
FRY Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses Bilateral Relations *[Kiev TV]* 43

National Affairs

Kravchuk Says World Supports Kiev on Crimea Issue *[UNIAN]* 43
Kravchuk Sets Terms for Crimean Settlement *[INTERFAX]* 44
Kravchuk Warns Crimea: No Change of Status *[Kiev International]* 45
Meshkov: Stable Relations With Kiev 'Out of Question' *[INTERFAX]* 46
Arrival of APC's in Simferopol Said Coincidental *[Kiev International]* 46
Crimean Speaker Optimistic About Talks With Ukrainians *[Moscow TV]* 46
Medzhlis Calls for Tatars To Comply With Ukraine Law *[Kiev Radio]* 46
Tatars Say Crimean Decrees Unlawful *[Kiev International]* 46
Kiev Urges Simferopol To Cancel Decision on Crimean Police *[INTERFAX]* 46
No Comment From Chief Negotiator on Kiev's Stand on Crimea *[INTERFAX]* 47
Talks on Crimea Begin in Kiev *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Crimea Tense But Calm; Ukrainian Reinforcements Arrive *[Radio Rossii]* 47
Crimean Communist Leader: 1992 Constitution 'Inappropriate' *[UNIAR]* 47
Crimea Seen on Verge of Armed Conflict *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 May]* 48
Nationalists Demand Annulment of Crimean Autonomy *[Kiev International]* 48
Crimean National Guard Forces 'Continuing To Grow' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 May]* 48
Talks on Crimea To Continue 24 May; Kiev Withholds Credits *[SEGODNYA 24 May]* 49
New Parliamentary Speaker Profiled *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 49
Tsekov Views Ukraine, Russia Relations *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 17 May]* 50
Ciscarpathian Commander Views Combat Training *[MOLODA HALYCHYNA 17 May]* 53
Meshkov Interviewed After First 100 Days in Office *[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 19 May]* 54

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Kebich Discusses Economy, Election Platform *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 56
Seen Wooing Voters With 'Expensive' Money *[IZVESTIYA 21 May]* 57
Finance Minister Interviewed on Currency Union *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 May]* 58
Deputy Says Presidium Uses 'Command' Economy Methods *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 20 May]* . 59
Reporter Claims 'Unofficial Privatization' Began in 1991 *[SVABODA 16 May]* 60
Program for 'Structural Reshaping' of Industry Viewed *[DOBRY VECHAR 17 May]* 60

Moldova

President, Parliament Speaker Meet Gagauz Leaders *[INTERFAX]* 61
Snegur Undecided on Special Status for Tiraspol *[INTERFAX]* 62
14th Army Accuses Dniester Officials of Corruption *[INTERFAX]* 62

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Details of Premier Tereshchenko's Recent Visit to Iran *[Almaty Radio]* 63
Protesters Expose Rights Violations in Kazakhstan *[IZVESTIYA 21 May]* 63

Tajikistan

Tajik Rebels Driven Back Across Afghan Border *[INTERFAX]* 64
Russian Industrialists' Union President Arrives in Dushanbe *[INTERFAX]* 64

Uzbekistan

Kazakh President Arrives in Tashkent for Festival *[Tashkent Radio]* 64
President Interviewed *[Almaty Radio]* 64

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Armenia Claims Azeri Cease-Fire Violations 22 May *[Radio Rossii]* 66
Deputies Hold Closed Meeting on Karabakh Situation *[SNARK]* 66
Karabakh Minister Denies Continued Army Attacks *[SNARK]* 66

Azerbaijan

Azeris Accuse Armenia of 'Barbaric Acts' *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
Aliyev Assures No Russian Troop Deployment in Azerbaijan *[INTERFAX]* 66
Aliyev, UK Minister Discuss Oil Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Aliyev Stresses National Interests in Oil Talks *[AFP]* 67
Deputies Walk Out in Protest of Bishkek Protocol *[BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 20 May]* 67

Georgia

Shevardnadze Calls For Support on Abkhaz Issue *[Tbilisi Radio]* 68
Opposition Steps Up Activity To Remove Shevardnadze *[Moscow TV]* 70

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

President Accepts Ministers' Resignations *[Tallinn Radio]* 71
Rural Centrist Party Ministers To Remain in Cabinet *[BNS]* 71
Liberal Ministers To Stay *[BNS]* 71
Two Ministers Serve as Acting Defense Ministers *[Tallinn Radio]* 71
Russian Assembly Seeks Non-Citizen Residence Permits *[BNS]* 72
World Bank Urges Increase in State Investments *[BNS]* 72

Latvia

Security Issues Discussed With North Atlantic Assembly *[BNS]* 72
Commission on Army Withdrawal Holds First Session *[Riga Radio]* 73
New Data Transmission Network Introduced 20 May *[BNS]* 73

Lithuania

Foreign Ministry on Ukraine's Territorial Integrity *[Vilnius Radio]* 73
Slezevicius Sums up Results of Visit To France *[Vilnius Radio]* 74
Inflation of 1.6 Percent Noted in Apr *[BNS]* 74

EU Association Talks With Baltics To Begin in 1994

WS2305130194 Tallinn BNS in English 1627 GMT 22 May 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania at a meeting with their counterparts from the EU "troika" countries Belgium, Germany and Greece in Brussels agreed May 17 that association talks between the Baltics and the EU will start already this year.

The talks are to start after the signing of free trade treaties between the EU and the Baltic countries, Estonia's Ambassador to the European Union Clyde Kull said.

Kull said the EU officials had been content with the current situation of the free trade talks.

The free-trade talks between Estonia and the European Union are making progress, Mari-Ann Rikken, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, told BNS.

Foreign Ministry Deputy Chancellor Priit Kolbre, after his return from another round of textile talks in Brussels, characterized the meeting as a substantial piece of business "where the ice was broken," Rikken said.

"Serious attention was paid to Estonia's position in issues concerning textiles, and the meeting passed in a constructive spirit," she told BNS.

Officials from the European Commission foreign relations and industry directorate visited Tallinn earlier this month. They negotiated a textiles protocol to be annexed to the Estonian-EU free-trade treaty and toured Estonia's major textile and clothing manufacturers. The leader of the EC delegation, David Dailey, noted that Estonian sewn products are of a better quality than those produced in other East European countries.

Rikken said the third official round of free-trade talks will probably be held at the beginning of July in Brussels. "Despite the postponement of the round, we're not behind schedule and nothing prevents the Estonian-EU free-trade agreement from being initialed in the summer and stepping into force on January 1, 1995," the Foreign Ministry spokeswoman claimed.

Latvia wants the European Union to grant its textile goods and fish products easier trade terms in view of the inconsiderable mutual trade turnover, Latvian Acting Foreign Minister Egils Levits told reporters commenting on the current free trade talks.

Possibilities to start talks on Lithuania's associate membership in the European Union may appear in late June at the best, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said.

The EU will start to consider possibilities of granting associate status to the Baltics only when free trade talks are completed, Gylys told a news conference. In his words, Lithuania's free trade talks with the EU are "constructive, but not easy." If no hindrances appear, the free trade agreement may be ready after another two rounds of talks in May, the minister said.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 24 May

LD2405062094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0539 GMT 24 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 24 (TASS)—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the situation in the Crimea:

"One can speak about President Leonid Kravchuk's desire to strain the situation to the limit in order to secure cancellation of a presidential election. But if the limit is exceeded, Kravchuk would lose one of his main trump cards—the image of a person who has been able to keep Ukraine peaceful following the proclamation of independence.

"In the event of such a conflict, Russia and Ukraine would risk losing the image of normal members of the internatioal community. However, neither can one fail to recognise that a war of nerves, during which one can manage to solve certain private internal political tasks and show adherence to principles without much expenditure of efforts or means, is utterly beneficial to all the sides."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries an article on the political situation in the Crimea under the headline "It Is Clear in the Crimea so Far, Although the Weather-Gauge Pointer Approaches the 'Storm' Mark."

Covering the latest developments there, the newspaper draws the following conclusion: "All things considered, it is clear so far that Kiev has not abandoned attempts to put strongarm pressure on the 'mutinous' peninsula".

The newspaper believes that an escalation of tension is of benefit to Ukraine. On the one hand, in the event of a successful undoing of the 'Crimean knot' (a peaceful way is meant), this would influence Kravchuk's rating at the forthcoming presidential elections of June 26. On the other hand, an aggravation of the situation may lead to cancellation of the elections, which would also suit the president and his entourage".

PRAVDA on the situation in the Crimea:

"The Crimea is becoming an explosive region nowadays. Only a return, even if a staggered one, to a single common fatherland will save the Crimea, Ukraine, Russia, and the entire Commonwealth of Independent States from confrontations which are fraught with bloodshed".

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI publishes remarks made by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at a meeting with

the directors of industrial, building and transport enterprises and organisations on May 20.

Explaining the contents of a package of draft normative documents to resolve economic reform problems, Chernomyrdin said in particular: "With a view to attracting foreign investments, the government intends to exempt enterprises with a considerable amounts of foreign investments from paying a profit tax to the federal budget for three years. In subsequent two years, the profit tax is to be exacted at a lowered rate".

"Provision is made for a considerable reduction in the export customs tariffs on staple Russian export commodities, such as oil and oil products, gas, electric power, aluminium, and pulp, and for the abolition of fixed quotas for and licensing of those commodities' export," Chernomyrdin said.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA frontpages a report on the repatriation of two former Soviet servicemen taken prisoner in Afghanistan.

"About 290 Soviet servicemen are now listed as missing in the war in Afghanistan. Approximately 20 captives are held by Afghan rebel groups. Seventeen captives returned home following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in February 1989. Prior to the Soviet withdrawal, 111 POWs had been released, with 53 freed through intelligence channels, and the rest through diplomatic ones".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes a column of comments by influential Russian politicians on the arrival of prominent writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in Russia.

RABOCHAYA TIRIBUNA runs an article written on the strength of remarks from academician Andrey Sakharov's speeches, reports and articles.

TRUD draws readers' attention to the political life of parties and movements that are in opposition to the government. The writer of an article, headlined "A Springtime Exacerbation", analyses Aleksandr Rutskoy's chances to head a mass, organised party.

Reportage on UK Foreign Secretary Hurd's Visit

Meets With Yeltsin

LD2405101994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0954 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 24 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin received visiting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in the Kremlin on Tuesday, the presidential press service reports.

The sides discussed European security, cooperation between Russia and the west, including NATO's "partnership for peace" programme. The president stressed that cooperation between Russia and NATO is of mutual interest and should be carried on with the understanding of Russia's specific features as a great power.

Yeltsin expressed hope for the earliest completion of talks and the signing of agreements between Russia and the European Union on Russia's entry into GATT. He also pointed to the need for Russia's full-fledged participation in setting up a new organisation on export controls after COCOM ended its functions.

In connection with the question on the situation in the Crimea, which was raised by Hurd, Yeltsin confirmed Russia's known position on this issue: The Crimea's problems should be settled between Kiev and Simferopol through negotiations, in line with the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, without the use of force.

The sides also examined in detail the state of Russian-British relations, noting that contacts between the two countries are being exercised at an unprecedentedly high level.

Hurd conveyed a message to Yeltsin from Queen Elizabeth II where her majesty accepts an earlier invitation to make history's first official visit to Russia in autumn 1994.

Meets With Chernomyrdin on Economic Issues

LD2405085594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 24 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, discussed mainly economic issues at a meeting this morning.

Viktor Chernomyrdin informed the British minister about the package of decrees on stepping up structural transformations in the Russian economy, which were prepared by the government and signed by President Boris Yeltsin Monday. They are designed, in particular, to optimize the government's taxation policy and attract foreign and Russian capital investments.

Douglas Hurd, for his part, noted that after meeting with British businessmen in Moscow he arrived at the conclusion that business people in his country take an extremely optimistic view with regard to the prospects for economic cooperation between Russia and Britain. Douglas Hurd confirmed the invitation given by British Prime Minister John Major to Viktor Chernomyrdin to visit London officially at the end of 1994 or the beginning of 1995.

Visits Murmansk

LD2305141494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1338 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Vladimir Novikov]

[Text] Murmansk May 23 TASS—Great Britain and Russia must closely cooperate in peace time, as during World War II, British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said on Monday. He arrived on a three-day official visit to Russia on Sunday.

Sharing his impressions of his trip in the Kola peninsula, the British diplomat noted that this region has great prospects. They are linked with the development of the Murmansk port, vast natural resources and talent of the people living here. Upon return to Great Britain Hurd is expected to meet with representatives of business circles and tell them about the results of his journey. He stressed that it is necessary to pay a special attention to humanitarian cooperation. Great Britain plans to finance a blood cancer treatment project and to provide necessary equipment to one of the Murmansk hospitals, the British foreign minister pointed out.

Head of the British Foreign Office Douglas Hurd and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev offered flowers at the memorial in honour of British and U.S. navy personnel who were killed while conducting sea convoys with allied aid to Murmansk. The heads of foreign departments visited the navy museum. They had conversation with commander of the Northern Sea Fleet Admiral Oleg Yerofeyev on board the cruiser "Admiral Nakhimov". The day before the talks Andrey Kozyrev had noted that as of today Russian nuclear force rockets are no longer targeted at Great Britain, similarly British missiles are also no longer aimed at Russia. This symbolises new relations of trust between the two countries, Kozyrev said.

Douglas Hurd and Andrey Kozyrev left by a special plane for Moscow the same day. The British foreign minister will continue discussing bilateral cooperation. In particular, he is to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Then he will leave Moscow for Kiev. Replying to a question about the aim of this visit to Kiev, the British diplomat said that during his one-day visit to Ukraine he will meet with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. Great Britain wants to assist democratic reforms and

Ukraine's movement towards the market economy as well as to see Ukraine live in peace with its neighbours, especially with Russia, Douglas Hurd added.

Discusses Cooperation With Kozyrev

LD2205203494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1933 GMT 22 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Vladimir Novikov]

[Text] Murmansk, 22 May—Cooperation between Russia and Britain is developing very well, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said after talks here with his British colleague Douglas Hurd, who has arrived in Russia on a three-day official visit.

The Russian foreign minister said that British Prime Minister John Major's meeting with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin was still quite a recent event, while a new and important event for mutual relations was now on the agenda: the first state visit to Russia by Queen Elizabeth II.

Kozyrev mentioned the broad list of issues discussed at the current talks, in particular, preparations for the political meeting of leaders of the G-7 and Russia in Naples, the working out of an agreement on partnership between Russia and the European Union, the prospects of cooperation between Russia and NATO, the Bosnian crisis, and Moscow's relations with the Baltic countries. Significant attention, in his words, was paid to finding ways to step up the activities of the CSCE during preparations for the summit meeting of the member countries of this international forum. There was also a productive exchange of views on ways of developing regional cooperation, including cooperation with Murmansk. The minister said that "Britain was a partner with whom Russia was holding a stable, open and friendly dialogue."

The head of the British Foreign Office noted that his country was playing pioneering role in ties with Murmansk. In Hurd's words, this role was clearly manifested in the past wars, and it continues now, as demonstrated by the present visit, the first by a British foreign secretary to the polar regions of Russia. "Agreement has been reached on all the issues we discussed," the head of the Foreign Office said. "There are three major organizations in Europe - NATO, the EC, and the CSCE. In the early stages of their existence they were dealing with the problem of overcoming confrontation, but now a new stage has begun, and work is under way with the aim of reaching accord. Russia is playing a key role in this process. I hope a cooperation agreement between Russia and the European Union will be signed as early as June. We in Britain at any rate will be striving towards this. We also expect Russia to reach accord with NATO on the basis of the Partnership for Peace program, and we expect the CSCE to become a more effective tool in overcoming international crises."

Discusses Crimea, Bosnia, NATO

LD2205214594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2045 GMT 22 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Vladimir Novikov]

[Text] Murmansk, 23 May—The talks between the foreign ministers of Russia and Britain held here today were conducted in the spirit of constructive and frank exchange of views. The talks were part of the current official visit to Russia by the head of the British Foreign Office. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from sources close to the Russian delegation that the British side was interested in Moscow's reaction to Ukraine's appeal to the UN Security Council regarding the situation in the Crimea. Russia has nothing against such an appeal and believes that a call for a political settlement coming from the UN Security Council would be of use to all sides.

According to the same sources, during the talks the two sides discussed crises in various CIS countries in terms of a more active CSCE participation in their settlement. On the Bosnian issue, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to acting on the basis of common understanding of the aims and in the spirit of agreements reached at the Geneva meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, and five EC countries on 13 May.

Discussing the issue of Russia joining NATO's Partnership for Peace program, participants in the meeting agreed that military- political cooperation should not be restricted by the provisions of the outline document. Russia is a nuclear state, and it cannot be put on a level with other countries. An agreement that would take its specific features into account has to be drawn up. The forthcoming visit to Brussels by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev will be the first step in this direction. The agreement concerned—be it a protocol or a program—has to answer the question of how Russia is to cooperate with NATO in such areas as peacekeeping, conversion, consultations, and contacts between the military.

Discusses Crimea With Rybkin

LD2305142794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 23 May—"The Crimean issue is too important to be used as a card in the presidential election campaign in Ukraine." This was said today by Russia's State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin at a meeting with Douglas Hurd, Britain's minister for foreign and Commonwealth affairs [title as received].

The speaker of Russia's lower house also said "that everything happening in Crimea is Ukraine's internal affair," and that "the peoples of the peninsula have the

right to self-determination, but within the framework of Ukraine and on the basis of the principles of the CSCE."

Cooperation between the two countries' parliaments was also discussed during the meeting. On behalf of the House of Commons, Douglas Hurd invited a Duma delegation headed by Ivan Rybkin to visit Great Britain this December.

Says G-7 Welcomes Russia's Membership

LD2305182194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Nikolay Manvelov]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—The Group of Seven industrialized nations is interested in Russia's joining its activities, in the creation of the G-8 group, said visiting British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd at a meeting with journalists at an international press center today.

The British foreign minister, currently on an official visit to Russia, pointed out the importance of his talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev, which were held in Murmansk.

In reply to a question asked by ITAR-TASS about his attitude to Russia's economic partnership with Western Europe, Hurd said that concluding an agreement on cooperation between Russia and EC will be an important step in Russia's joining the common market. He believes this might become a reality until the end of June. Hurd stressed that it is possible to say even now that signing this document will boost business contacts and give them an important impetus.

Commenting on the idea of Russia's joining the NATO Partnership for Peace programme, the British foreign minister said that this concept provides for an individual approach to every country. Hurd expressed the hope that Russia will be able to find its place in the Partnership for Peace programme.

Touching upon the situation in the Crimea, Hurd declared that London considers the Crimea to be an inalienable part of Ukraine. At the same time Hurd pointed out that Kiev should flexibly react to the opinion of Crimean residents and take Russia's position into account. The British foreign minister pointed out that Russia has a full right to carry out peace-keeping operations in countries of the former Soviet Union, provided these operations are conducted at the request of their governments and in the spirit of U.N. and CSCE documents.

On Tuesday, the British foreign minister will meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, during the meeting the Russian president will be handed in a letter from the British Queen Elizabeth II, in which she confirms her intention to pay a state visit to Russia before the end of this year.

Calls Meetings 'Most Useful'

LD2405101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0822 GMT 24 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow, 24 May—The meetings with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the Russian capital were "most useful," Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth Affairs, said, speaking to correspondents at Vnukovo Airport today at the end of a three-day official visit to Russia.

The British foreign secretary declared that particular attention was paid to the situation in Crimea during his conversation with the Russian president. He said that the Russian side occupies a clear and precisely expressed position, considering this issue to be Ukraine's internal affair. The Crimean peninsula is a part of Ukrainian territory, therefore disputes arising around it must be resolved through dialogue between Kiev and Simferopol.

Overall, Douglas Hurd summed up, complete understanding was reached on the whole range of problems discussed during the visit. The Foreign Office head confirmed that Queen Elizabeth II has accepted an invitation from the Russian president to visit Russia, and that this visit could take place before the end of this year.

The same day the British minister left Moscow for Kiev.

Diplomat Comments on Hurd-Kozyrev Meeting

LD2305210994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1610 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow, 23 May—The level of cooperation in Russian- British relations is now higher than in Russia's relations with many other countries. "The sides not only do not have any differences on any serious issues, there are not even any significant divergences of positions," this was the evaluation of the present state of relations between Russia and the United Kingdom by a close advisor to the Russian foreign minister on the results of talks between Andrey Kozyrev and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. The visit of the head of British diplomacy, which began in Murmansk on 22 May, was noted for a symbolic event today. D. Hurd became the first foreign minister of a western country to visit the strategic base of the Russian fleet at Severomorsk.

"This is our latest true gesture of partnership with NATO," the Russian diplomat said, commenting on the British minister's visit to the Admiral Nakhimov, a Northern Fleet heavy cruiser. Although we still await the signing of agreements—a framework document and a special protocol on mutual relations between Russia and

the North Atlantic alliance, reflecting its special nature as a nuclear power—partnership between the Russian Federation and NATO is already in fact being implemented. The same day, the diplomat reported, the high-ranking representative of NATO's military command is awaited in Severomorsk.

According to the Russian diplomat, among western partners "the British probably understand us most of all," and here the personal position of the Foreign Office head plays a part. For example, on the question of Russia's participation from the outset in a political conference between G-7 countries with equal rights, Great Britain "was one of the first to stretch out its hand to us," and the summit in Naples this summer will be the premiere of the political "eight."

In relation to an agreement between the Russian Federation and the European Union, London is in favor of this accord being reached as soon as possible. Until recently, the Foreign Office representative explained, two unsolved questions had largely remained in the way to a triumphant ceremony. The first, where the "ball was in the Russian court," concerned the lifting of restrictions on the activities of foreign banks in Russia. A solution was found—for some banks conditions will be improved as of now, and for others—in the foreseeable future. The second matter is linked with the position of the partners, first and foremost the French, and their commercial interests. Russia was offered lower quotas than at present in trade in materials of the nuclear fuel cycle, to which Moscow could not agree. Experts from the two sides are working on the problem, and according to information just received, they are close to a compromise. As far as London is concerned, it favors an agreement being signed in June.

Close interaction is also to be seen in efforts to settle the situation in Bosnia. It is being implemented by the sides in the spirit of the communique of the ministerial meeting between Russia, the United States, and the five countries of the European Union on Bosnia, held in Geneva on 13 May.

As far as the Russian Federation's relations with the Baltic countries are concerned, in the opinion of the British partners, the package of agreements with Latvia on the withdrawal of Russian troops, which also contains guarantees of the rights of military pensioners, could also extend to the Estonian side. According to the Russian diplomat, London will try to convince Tallinn of this.

Speaking about Douglas Hurd's trip to the Ukraine next Tuesday, the Russian diplomat said that the British side strives to prevent any worsening of relations between Moscow and Kiev, and therefore follows the principle of "no harm." In fact other Western countries have also adopted a similar position. As for the declarations by Ukrainian representatives about their intention to appeal to the UN Security Council regarding the situation in Crimea, Moscow has told the British side it favored this major international body taking an interest in this problem, calling for a settlement through peaceful, political means. This would cool down some hotheads on various sides.

It is not a coincidence that the meeting between the Russian and British foreign ministers took place in Murmansk. This region has a vast potential, where bilateral cooperation has great prospects, and generates serious interest in Great Britain. Douglas Hurd expressed hope that plans will go ahead to twin Murmansk and Aberdeen, a large British port and center of oil and gas industry.

The head of the British diplomacy remembered the war time camaraderie and expressed his conviction that in peaceful times the cooperation between the two countries must be equally close. The United Kingdom, he said, is planning to send official representatives to Murmansk to mark Victory Day, which had been achieved with some help from the marines of the military and merchant fleet of Great Britain, who had taken part of Arctic convoys delivering aid from the allies to the town during the war.

First-Ever Russian Submarine Arrives in UK

LD2305161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Pakhomov]

[Text] Gosport May 23 TASS—British and Russian military sailors rejoined for the first time after decades of cold war at a welcoming ceremony for a Russian submarine that arrived on a visit in Britain on Monday.

The craft belonging to the Russian Northern Fleet called at the Navy base Dolphin in the town of Gosport in the south of Britain, marking the first ever visit of a Russian submarine to this country.

The Russian sailors received a hearty welcome with a military band, gun salute and guard of honour which would have been unheard of only several years ago.

This is a historic event, base Chief of Staff Jeff Goodwin told ITAR-TASS. During the World War Two Russia and Britain were allies, but then the Cold War set in and the base was the main watchdog for Soviet subs in the Northern Atlantic, he continued. But now everything has changed and Russian sailors are welcome guests in Britain, Goodwin said.

"When the military make friends, there are fewer chances that a war will break out," Russian submarine Captain Sergey Rozanov said. "I cannot even imagine myself fighting against Jeff," he said.

During the visit, the submarine crew led by Rear Admiral Georgiy Titarenko, first deputy chief of staff of the Northern Fleet, will meet with British military officials, tour warships, navy bases in Gosport and Portsmouth, and the museum of submarines. The Russian

sailors will also take a trip to London and hold receptions aboard the submarine for their British colleagues.

On May 25 the submarine will leave Britain and head for its base in Severomorsk.

NATO Undecided How To Treat Russian Approach to PFP

PM2405090594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 May 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Golts report: "NATO-Russia: Partnership Should Be For Sake of Peace, Not For Sake of Partnership"]

[Text] The sessions, held twice a year, of NATO's leading working organs—the Military Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group—have never minded about drawing journalists' attention. Both in the past, in the years of military confrontation between East and West, and now, when Europe and the world are in a strategically uncertain situation, these organs' decisions have had an enormous influence on the level of security on the continent.

It is hard to recall a representative of a nonmember country ever taking part in these sessions. This time, NATO ministers will be addressed by their Russian colleague Pavel Grachev. According to an opinion voiced during a special briefing at the U.S. Defense Department, the Russian Federation defense minister's speech is of enormous interest to NATO ministers.

And that interest is pragmatic rather than idle. NATO believes that a clearer understanding of Russia's military-political goals and priorities will make it possible to overcome a not very pleasant state of uncertainty. This uncertainty has arisen because all of a sudden Moscow sharply put the brakes on its accession to NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program. And it provided an excuse for people to talk about a kind of Russian haughtiness toward those states which had already joined the program.

Yet somehow what is being lost sight of is the fact that the "Partnership" program itself is only just being set up. The idea of a "partnership" open to all was a compromise in a difficult situation for NATO. When, on the one hand, a number of East European states stated their willingness to immediately join NATO on the pretext of the "threat from the East." And, on the other, Moscow resolutely opposed this prospect, rightly seeing it as a selfish attempt to revive military confrontation in Europe. The idea was then transformed into a collection of the most general principles.

Essentially "Partnership for Peace" is now just a way to ease the European states' mutual fears until such time as it is possible to elaborate an integrated and universally acceptable approach to safeguarding security on the European Continent. And this search does not end with the "Partnership" program. We need only mention the French plan for stability in Europe, and the proposal from the FRG and the Netherlands to strengthen the CSCE's peacekeeping role. Finally, we cannot fail to recall the Russian idea of galvanizing the North Atlantic Cooperation Council as the core of a future security structure.

But, in parallel with this quest, there has been in recent months a rush by some 20 East European countries and former Soviet republics to join the "Partnership." And their joining looks like more of a symbolic act.

Russia has already recovered from its desire to collect the mere symbols of unity with the West. It now wants serious work in the sphere of strengthening pan-European stability. That is why the Russian Federation defense minister insists that setting out the provisions of the Russian military doctrine is of even greater importance than presenting to NATO the parameters and directions devised in Moscow for political and military cooperation with this organization. After all, in this context these parameters will no longer look like claims for a special status of relationship with NATO. This status should simply correspond in the most natural way to the status of a nuclear power responsible for the verification and nonproliferation regimes, and to Russia's approaches toward safeguarding its own and the world's security.

It seems as though NATO has not yet reached a general decision about just how to deal with the Russian approach. It is constantly reiterating that partnership, as U.S. Ambassador to Russia Pickering aptly put it, is a kind of "smorgasbord" open to everyone. Everyone can take the dish they want. In other words, each state determines the parameters of cooperation itself. But, after all, somebody has to act as the cook, supplying certain dishes and monitoring their quality....

A Pentagon spokesmen stated that Russia's special role could be marked by a special statement or declaration. The FRG defense minister considers it realistic for Russia to take part in the NATO Council decision-making process, primarily when it is a question of pan-European security and global strategic issues. At the same time, NATO is insisting that Russia should not have the right of veto or any other additional privileges. But the main privilege on which Moscow is insisting is a partnership with NATO for the sake of peace, not just for the sake of partnership.

Official: Russia's Partnership With NATO 'Reality'

LD2305172594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Russia's partnership with NATO is a thing of reality despite much propaganda noise about it, the Foreign Minister's political adviser Galina Sidorova told Russian reporters in Moscow on Monday.

She said British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's visit to missile carrying cruiser Admiral Nakhimov at Severomorsk on Monday must be seen as one more gesture towards partnership.

Sidorova described the Russian-British partnership to this end as being significant in a sense. "We have no differences, let alone, slightest misunderstanding with Britons. This is also indicated by Britain's position on Russia's cooperation with the G-7 countries and the Bosnian conflict as well as identical approaches to key international issues the two countries share", she said.

On Sunday's talks in Murmansk between the heads of the Russian and British foreign political departments, Sidorova made it clear that Britain was keen to see peaceful developments both in Crimea and Ukraine. "Britain appears to proceed from the principle of not doing harm", she said.

Independent Academics Endorse PFP Program

PM2405101994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 May 94 p 4

[Viktor Litovkin article: "Thirty-Three Pages of Arguments 'In Favor.' It Is Russia which Needs 'Partnership for Peace' Most of All, Scientists Believe"]

[Text] Scientists from the Russian Center for Problems of National Security and International Relations headed by Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences Sergey Rogov have prepared a 33-page report entitled "Partnership for Peace and Russia's Interests." In it they analyzed the political, military-economic, and military-technical aspects of the NATO program and made recommendations on the possible terms of our country's affiliation to this document.

The independent scientists' main conclusion is this: Russia's long-term geopolitical interests demand the country's immediate entry into talks with the NATO countries for the purpose of affiliation to that program. In this regard "Partnership for Peace" must unfailingly take into account Russia's special status and role in Europe and the world and its broad potential for influencing the course of political processes and ensure the strict observance of its national interests.

What arguments do the authors of the report present? They assert that the problem of Russia's participation in "Partnership for Peace" is primarily a question of defining our state's place in the new system of international relations which has developed since the end of the Cold War. Its present position can hardly be called satisfactory. We have no reliable allies and partners today. Russia has an urgent need for integration into the world market as a great power and not as a "poor relation" or a source of cheap raw materials and labor.

Of course, the scientists say, to be on a par with the other centers of power in the world arena we must fully implement our reforms and realize the country's vast economic potential. Only then will people really take notice of us.

Nor can we forget the foreign policy priorities. Russia, like any other state, has its own legitimate interests. They have nothing to do with imperial ambitions or superpower pretensions but the country's security, that is to say, its survival and development as a prosperous democratic state, demands that world political questions that affect us should not be resolved at the Russian Federation's expense.

The logic of passively waiting for things to happen and of deliberate "nonintervention" must be alien to us, the scientists say. On the contrary, it is only Russia's active participation in the "Partnership for Peace" program which will offer it the opportunity of exerting practical influence on the architecture of the future system of European security and of playing a major role worthy of a great country in it on an equal footing. There is no alternative here, the scientists argue, and ambiguity cannot be allowed. Either the Russian and Western military and politicians cooperate or else a flawed system of suspicion and hostility will sooner or later prevail. We already know what that leads to.

Undoubtedly if you analyze the documents forming the basis of "Partnership for Peace" you can say that it contains ideological postulates which are of a declarative nature. A precise mechanism for maintaining pan-European equilibrium has not been elaborated or approved yet but nevertheless the values which they proclaim do correspond to our country's long-term geopolitical interests.

Furthermore, in the scientists' opinion, NATO's new strategic concept does not conflict with our country's interests. It is based on the principles of ensuring the strictly defensive character of that alliance by reducing the levels of those forces maintained in a high state of combat readiness and major groupings, and on focusing efforts on the prevention of war and on the settlement of crises by peaceful means.

We are also pleased that NATO has embarked on the sharp reduction of military spending and the numerical strength of its armed forces. By 1997 their number in Central Europe will be down by 50 percent and their naval forces will be reduced by 10 percent. In the scientists' opinion, there is no real foundation to the current opinion that our participation in the program will place an intolerable burden on the Russian economy and will destroy its defense industry once and for all as a result of the "standardization of arms and military hardware" which is mentioned in the document.

Within NATO itself such attempts have been made a number of times but have met with extremely modest success. Each state which has joined it has staunchly defended the interests of its own military industry. That is why the French are still flying Mirages, the Americans their F-15s and F-18s, the Italians their Tornadoes, and

the Germans, among other things, the MiG-29. In addition, everyone understands that it is effectively impossible to resolve the rearmament problem in the foreseeable future—it will cost too much money.

But giving the various countries' armed forces the potential to operate jointly and creating a unified command and control system for them, including computerized command and control, is a different matter. At the technical level, this presupposes first of all the unification of certain radio frequencies and the upgrading of receiving and transmitting equipment and, at the level of organization and training, it means the elaboration of a broad program to teach personnel a common language and a single understanding of military commands and terms. All these things are already happening when joint peacemaking operations are carried out.

The terms of "Partnership for Peace", the scientists believe, are in fact just the outer shell which still has to be filled with actual content. This may also depend on the joint work of specialists from Russia and the NATO countries. No initiative should be dismissed out of hand if we do not want to miss the boat which will leave for the future without us.

What are the conditions and principles of affiliation to the "Partnership for Peace" program that the scientists of the Center for Problems of Russia's National Security consider acceptable for Russia?

The first is that our country's entry into "Partnership for Peace" will mean the practical embodiment of the long-term Russian strategy aimed at moving from military-political confrontation with the West to strategic partnership with it in the military-political sphere. In this regard Russia must be guided by its own national interests without claiming any privileges but without waiving the legitimate right to equal security either.

Russia's paramount, priority goal in this program is the prevention of a new split of Europe, the arms race, and military confrontation, this time on our western borders—around Smolensk and Bryansk. It is only by being part of this program that Russia will be able to influence the creation of an all-European collective security system and prevent the rapid expansion of NATO by means of former Warsaw Pact members.

At the same time, it is necessary to clearly determine what commitments Russia and the NATO countries will undertake toward one another. There can be no disagreements or ambiguities here. Our state is ready to accept the same degree of responsibility which the NATO members accept toward it. In the process it expects firm guarantees that if there is a threat to its national interests, Russia can count on the full support of its partners. "Partnership" will not hinder the development of close ties between our country and its Asian neighbors, first and foremost with China.

Russia cannot accept the idea that the crucial questions of international security are resolved without its participation and especially at its expense. Consequently, NATO, of which it is not a member, must not try to assume the role of an arbiter of other people's destinies. It is absolutely clear that the present mechanism of decisionmaking in NATO is inadequate here. Different, more democratic and mutually acceptable forms are needed, within the CSCE framework, for instance.

It is also necessary to define the specific forms of peacemaking cooperation within the "Partnership" framework. Russia is ready to take part in it under the auspices of the United Nations or the CSCE and also the CIS. But the kind of solution in which NATO is its initiator and we merely the mute executant does not befit to our country. Unilateral steps are unacceptable here. If all the members of the bloc and the other European states accept such an approach, world peace will be reliably ensured.

One of the conditions which our scientists envisage for Russia's affiliation to the new NATO program is the harmonization of Western and Russian standards in the production of arms and combat hardware. Not only must access to the traditional markets of Central and Eastern Europe not be barred to our weapons makers but access to the internal markets of NATO and other countries must also be opened up. Only then will partnership be real and not merely rhetorical.

The political games surrounding our country's affiliation to the the process of creating the new Europe, the unpredictable vacillation, and especially the delay in stating its firm position with regard to the "Partnership" program and the signing of the necessary documents, the scientists believe, could leave us in an impasse from which we will not be able to escape.

Prospects of Russia Joining NATO PFP Viewed

PM2305122594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Article by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS correspondents Tamara Zamyatina, Vladimir Beskoromnyy, Aleksandr Mineyev, and Vladimir Tenin under the "Topic of the Day" rubric: "Will Moscow Become NATO's Partner? The West Considers that the Security System Is Impaired without Russia, but Is in No Hurry To Grant It Special Status"]

[Text] On 24 May Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev will deliver a report to the session of North Atlantic bloc defense ministers in Brussels on Russia's terms for signing the Partnership for Peace program. According to the Russian mass media, the report was prepared jointly by the Defense and Foreign Ministries and amounts in essence to the demand that Russia be granted a special status within the program demarcating its position and role from that of the other participants, particularly the former Soviet republics.

According to reports coming in from Brussels, the NATO leadership is inclining toward meeting Moscow's requests and even toward signing a special agreement with it which would provide for holding additional consultations on problems of European security but only after Russia's signing the Partnership for Peace program, to the text of which the West categorically refuses to make changes.

As we succeeded in elucidating, the leadership of this Western military-political bloc is afraid that if it meets Moscow halfway in all its demands a situation could develop on the spur of the moment whereby Russia would achieve for itself the right to veto NATO military-political decisions and would thereby be able not only to block the activity of this organization but also to exercise control over it [kontrolirovat] which, after the breakup of the USSR and the ending of the Cold War, the NATO leadership could not even have envisaged in their wildest dreams. By all accounds, a quite tough reception awaits Pavel Grachev in Brussels.

Will Russia join the North Atlantic bloc one way or another or not?—swords are going to be crossed on this score for a good while yet both in the West and in our own country. And although limited membership—via the Partnership for Peace program, drafted by the United States—rather than full membership is involved, it is obvious that this step could be the prologue to another drastic redrawing of the geopolitical map of the world in the 20th Century. What are the basic pros and cons, and who stands to gain?

Let us remember that the Partnership for Peace program appeared after Moscow's demarche opposing the immediate admission of East European and Baltic countries to NATO and that it is a kind of transitional stage toward full membership.

It has to be acknowledged that the program has been to the liking of many people. The framework agreement on affiliation to the Partnership program has already been signed at NATO HQ in Brussels by the top officials or foreign ministers of 18 countries (among which number eight former Soviet republics), including Romania, Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, Hungary, Ukraine, and Slovakia.

The Partnership was conceived as preparation for carrying out joint peacemaking operations under UN and CSCE auspices, as a means of improving operational coordination.

In the opinion of a high-ranking representative of the NATO military planning committee interviewed by us, some partners, particularly in Russia, do not altogether grasp the meaning of operational coordination. The opinion is current that this means replacing military equipment and purchasing armaments from NATO countries. That is not so, he maintained. The capability for operational coordination implies common doctrines, common procedures, and, of course, the possibility of maintaining liaison with one another, maintaining contact. It does not mean major expenditure, large-scale conversion of the defense industry, or its switch from producing Soviet weapons to the manufacture of NATO-type equipment.

According to our observations, NATO is certain that Russia will sign the framework document. First, they think that Russia would otherwise remain on the sidelines in self-isolation. Second, the Partnership differs from participation in the present consultative North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC] by virtue of its individualized approach, and Russia wants to develop relations with NATO precisely on an individual basis.

At the same time Russia's nonaffiliation would, it is thought in Brussels, have undesirable political repercussions.

As far as Russian statements about its intention to have special status within the Partnership are concerned, NATO HQ makes clear that the program embodies the principle of equality and identical opportunities and that NATO will not agree to any amendments or additions to the framework document. But it is recognized here that it is in the general interests of NATO and the countries of Central and East Europe and in the interests of European security to take Russia's weight and significance into account. If NATO accepts any proposals by Russia that go beyond the Partnership program they will be the subject of separate agreements.

NATO Allied Command Europe received a delegation of Russian journalists and political scientists on 17 May. During discussion it became clear that while Russian political circles pay paramount attention to the military aspect of the program, its initiators pay equal attention to joint rescue and and humanitarian operations. However, their conduct has been hampered without the affiliation of Russia and CIS countries to the Partnership.

Asked whether NATO leaders don't see contradictions between the interests of Russia as a Eurasian power in its simultaneous participation in the CIS defense union [oboronyy soyuz] and the NATO program, the military replied that "in that event there will be complementarity of interests and the idea of a transcontinental community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok will be realized." Global security in Eurasia will thereby be guaranteed, in their opinion.

The Russian Foreign Ministry's standpoint was expounded by senior adviser Andrey Androsov: "The program has concentrated within itself, as it were, the potential for collaboration which has emerged since the demise of the bipolar world. It takes account of our main thesis that NATO should not be enlarged by the mechanical admission of new states."

Foreign Ministry experts consider that the Russian Federation's nonaffiliation to Partnership for Peace will do great harm to the interests of Russia itself and that

nonparticipation in the Partnership threatens seriously to isolate Russia in the international arena and reduce its scope for influencing the process of shaping a new Euro-Atlantic area.

And Aleksandr Piskunov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, considers that the Partnership program is an attempt to find a new raison d'etre for NATO while moving, albeit in veiled form, toward confrontation with Russia. With its affiliation to the program Russia forsakes the opportunity effectively to influence the CIS and destroys the treaty on collective security among Commonwealth countries.

War With Ukraine Over Crimea Seen Unlikely

MK2405073794 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 May 94 p 1

[Vitaliy Portnikov report in the "Conflict" column: "Crimea Between a War of Rumors and a War of Nerves. The Ukrainian Prime Minister Has Arrived in Moscow, and a Delegation of Simferopol Parliamentarians, in Kiev"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The thesis that a Crimean war would benefit all three sides has become so commonplace that is no longer a subject of discussion. Everybody wants it. Meanwhile "everybody" wants a war of nerves, not a real shooting conflict. It is hardly likely that war is sought by President Meshkov who has long been unable to find a common language with his former associates in the Russian Democratic Congress who now sit in parliament. Furthermore, Crimea's inexperienced president would immediately become hostage to the retired GRU [Main Intelligence Directorate] officers he befriended "incautiously" or such people as newly appointed Internal Affairs Minister General Kuznetov who in his time was piqued by the suggestion that he could fight with Russia but appeared quite capable of fighting Ukraine.

Neither is war not needed to Saburov, his Moscow team and generally all Muscovites who have arrived in Simferopol to take part in the reform and therefore in privatization: what kind of reform could there be now? When guns speak, banks are silent.... The Crimean parliament might want war as a collective body but each individual deputy in particular....

The same in Kiev. One can talk about President Kravchuk's wish to aggravate the situation to the limit in order to cancel presidential elections, but if the limit is overstepped, Kravchuk will lose one of his main trumps: the image of a person who could keep Ukraine peaceful after its independence was proclaimed. The Ukrainian government could also lose a great deal in the event of a serious conflict: The Ukrainian political elite does not need a war. Just as, incidentally, the Russian elite: A conflict with Ukraine is not confrontation with Georgia or Moldova; it is hard to calculate not only all the possible military or economic consequences involved here but also the international reaction.

Russia and Ukraine in the event of such a conflict run the risk of losing their image as normal members of the international community. After all, whereas in a similar Serbo-Croat conflict in former Yugoslavia there were at least some, even if wild, historical justifications and explanations, here no one will be able to find any. Society itself will not understand or accept this war: Politicians will begin to be viewed simply as regular madmen.

This notwithstanding, it cannot but be recognized that the sides stand to gain greatly from a war of nerves, in the course of which it is possible to resolve some separate internal political tasks and demonstrate commitment to principle without an extensive expenditure of efforts or resources. It is only important that those involved in the high-level quarrel understand very well the limits of the boundary that they must not cross no matter what.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Ukraine-Crimea Issue

LD2405122394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1151 GMT 24 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 24 May—Russia firmly insists on a purely political settlement of the problems between Kiev and Simferopol. This was announced at today's briefing by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department.

The Russian diplomat stressed that differences between Kiev and Simferopol are "purely an internal affair of Ukraine." However, he said that some Ukrainian politicians are trying to put the blame for this on "external forces", unambiguously implying that they mean Russia.

"As for our position with regard to the sovereign Republic of Crimea, which is an integral part of Ukraine, this position has not changed and is well known to the Ukrainian leadership," the Foreign Minister spokesman said. "Like the Ukrainian side, we too are naturally concerned about possible tensions in Russo-Ukrainian relations over Crimea," he noted. "We agree that such CSCE principles of international law as territorial integrity and inviolability of existing borders should be observed universally. But no less important is respect for the sovereign will of the peoples' show of restraint and the need to rule out the use or the threat to use any strong-arm methods in solving political problems."

G. Karasin stressed that in the opinion of the Russian Foreign Ministry, "the situation in Crimea is further proof that key questions of Russo-Ukrainian relations should be solved promptly." According to the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, it is these problems and not the situation in Crimea that are being discussed at the Russian-Ukrainian talks at the level of heads of governments, which began in Moscow yesterday and which are continuing today.

Churkin Fears 'Yugoslav Version' of Crimea

LD2305130494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Russia is concerned over the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian president's Envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin told an Interfax correspondent today.

He announced that on Saturday Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had sent a verbal message to the main participants in the recent Geneva meeting on Bosnia—the U.S. state secretary, the British foreign secretary, the French and German foreign ministers.

According to Churkin, Kozyrev expressed his concern and urged his colleagues to resort to their influence on the parties, for instance, on the Bosnian government in order to achieve implementation of the Geneva Document forbidding the parties from launching any offensives. Neither should they try to resolve their problems by military actions, Churkin pointed out.

On the issue of the positions of the conflicting parties, Churkin said he would not appraise their conduct while hostilities were going on, though these were not wide-scale offensives. At the same time, a contact group continues its work. On Tuesday or Wednesday the group will meet the conflicting parties in order to discuss the territorial demarcation in Bosnia under the 49:51 proportion (as it had been decided in Geneva).

The Interfax correspondent asked Churkin, who has several times been to the zone of conflict in ex-Yugoslavia, what he could advise to politicians in Kiev and in Simferopol due to the deterioration of the situation around Crimea. "A 'Yugoslav version' is the worst that could happen. It cannot be forgotten that human life is precious as a value in itself and when seizing political power over destroyed territories one will lose more than win," Churkin remarked.

Talks With Ukraine on Crimea, Black Sea Fleet Open

LD2305150994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—The delegations of Russia and Ukraine are now meeting in Moscow to discuss the situation in the Crimea and the disputed Black Sea Fleet.

Opening the talks, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said that "the problems which have brought us here are very difficult." He asked his Ukrainian counterpart Yukhym Zvyahilskyy to outline the problems he wants to discuss at the talks. Zvyahilskyy named the Black Sea Fleet and the location of the Russian part of the fleet as two top priority issues.

Before the talks Chernomyrdin and Zvyahilskyy had a one-to-one meeting.

The talks are also being attended by Ukrainian Vice-Premier Valeriy Shmarov, Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk, Deputy Defence Minister Ivan Bizhan [name and title as received] and Navy commander Vladimir Beskorovainy. The Russian delegation includes Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, First Deputy Defence Minister Boris Gromov [name and title as received] and Navy Commander Feliks Gromov. Also taking part are the Ukrainian ambassador to Russia and the Russian ambassador to Ukraine.

Chernomyrdin Talks Take Break

LD2405091094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0829 GMT 24 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 May (ITAR-TASS)—An intermission until 1400 has been announced in the talks between the heads of government of Russia and Ukraine on dividing up the Black Sea Fleet and settling the situation in Crimea.

Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov took part in today's discussion of the problems of Russian-Ukrainian relations, which is into its second day today between delegations headed Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ukrainian acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy.

Russian-Ukrainian Talks Resume

LD2405075294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0701 GMT 24 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 May—"A successful solution to the matter of dividing the Black Sea Fleet will stabilize the situation in the Crimea in general." That is how Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvegilskiy described the subject matter of the talks between the heads of governments of Russia and Ukraine, now in their second day. The second stage of the talks began earlier this morning.

Yesterday Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his Ukrainian counterpart discussed the division of the Black Sea Fleet and its infrastructure, and the issue of separate bases for the national fleets. The talks began in a one-to-one format with the two delegations joining later.

The talks are proceeding in a confidential atmosphere, but Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov told correspondents that the exchange of views is constructive and is being conducted "in a good working tone."

The sides make no secret of the fact that the grounds for the current stage of the talks on the division of the Black Sea Fleet is the exacerbation of the political situation in Crimea. This follows the Crimean Parliament's decision to restore the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992 which, in the Kiev authorities' view, may pose a threat to political stability in the Ukraine and provoke tension in relations between Russian and Ukraine.

In Valeriy Shmarov's words, no settlement of the political situation in Crimea was discussed at the talks yesterday.

Crimea's Vice Premier Yevgeniy Saburov today joined the Ukrainian delegation at the talks.

Grachev Comments on Crimea at German Troop Headquarters

LD2305143894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1418 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Wunsdorf May 23 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev arrived in Wunsdorf on Monday where he will visit the headquarters of Russian Western troops which are being withdrawn from Germany.

Commenting on the situation on the Crimean peninsula, Grachev told journalists that although hazardous developments in the Crimea are Ukraine's internal affair, the situation on the peninsula is extremely complex and the political turmoil is becoming worse. At the same time, Grachev expressed the hope that the developments in the Crimea will not turn into major and serious conflicts.

In Wunsdorf, the Russian defence minister will meet commanders of Russia Western troops and later in Berlin, will have talks with representatives of the Deutsche Bank to discuss financial aspects of the troops' withdrawal.

Grachev attaches great importance to his talks with German financiers since this credit and financial organisation successfully cooperates with Russia in terms of financing the troops' withdrawal. According to Grachev, there are no problems in this respect. Besides, he intends to discuss with German bankers problems of the final stage of the troops pullout and outline prospects for further cooperation, including in the field of training Russian specialists who will work in structures of the Armed Forces in line of the banking business.

On Tuesday, the Russian defence minister will fly to Brussels. On Tuesday evening he expected to make a report to NATO commanders and heads of defence departments of NATO member-states, outlining basic principles of the Russian military doctrine.

On May 25, Grachev will have a series of bilateral talks with NATO defence ministers, and in particular, with the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. Grachev will take part in a joint session of defence ministers of NATO member-states to discuss problems of ensuring European security and prospects for NATO's cooperation with countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS in military and political fields. During the session Grachev is expected to outline Russia's stance on the Partnership for Peace Programme.

"Russia has thoroughly prepared for this session," Grachev told journalists on Monday. He pointed out that Russia's position on the matter had been fully approved by President Boris Yeltsin and coordinated with the Russian Foreign Ministry.

On board the plane carrying Grachev to Brussels there will be defence ministers of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Georgia who had been given an opportunity to fly to Brussels on board the Russian plane. During the flight to Wunsdorf Grachev had no contacts with his CIS counterparts and was reported to have been studying documents. However, it is not ruled out that he will have such contacts in Brussels.

Upon completion of the NATO part of the programme, Grachev will begin an official two-day visit to Brussels on May 26 during which he will meet the Belgian defence minister and familiarize himself with every-day life of Belgian servicemen.

Further on Grachev Remarks

LD2305123794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1201 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Wuensdorf, 23 May—Although the present alarming events in Crimea are a domestic affair for Ukraine, it is obvious that the situation on the peninsula is very complex and passions are rising, first and foremost in the political sphere, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev believes. At the same time, he expresses the hope that "the problem there will not develop into a serious, major conflict."

The Russian defense minister said this to correspondents today when he arrived in Wuensdorf, the headquarters of the Western Group of Forces [WGF], which is being withdrawn from Germany.

He will have a meeting here with the WGF command, and in Berlin he will hold talks with Deutsche Bank representatives about financing the withdrawal of the Russian forces. Pavel Grachev described his upcoming meeting with the Deutsche Bank management as "very important," since this credit finance institution has been cooperating very successfully with Russia over the question of finance for the troop withdrawal. He said that no problems have arisen in this respect.

Furthermore, he will also discuss the final stage of the withdrawal with the German bankers, and map out

prospects for cooperation, including the training of specialists from Russia, who will work on banking matters within the armed forces.

Filatov Blames Ukrainian Politicians for Crimea Tension

LD2305132594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—"Only irresponsible politicians in Ukraine who are seeking to take advantage of the situation in the region in order to postpone presidential elections and retain power may benefit from creating tension in the Crimea," the Russian president's administration chief of staff Sergey Filatov said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, Filatov said that transparent borders would provide the best conditions for relations not only between Ukraine, the Crimea and Russia, but also all CIS states. He regretted that unlike the rest of Europe, CIS countries are moving in the opposite direction, but only to realise with time that they will not be able to do without integration.

"The willingness of some Ukrainian politicians to fence off from Russia is conducive to the worsening of the social and psychological climate in society," Filatov said.

Diplomat Advocates Dual Citizenship for Crimeans

LD2305151994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 23 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] "Kiev's demand for annulling the Crimean parliament's decision to restore the 1992 Constitution will hardly solve the problem. It will only aggravate it. The best thing would be to settle this conflict during talks between delegations of the Ukrainian and Crimean parliaments," a high-ranking Russian diplomat in charge of relations with Ukraine told INTERFAX.

He believes that confrontation between Kiev and Simferopol will play into the hands of the Ukrainian politicians who seek momentary gains.

He is convinced that only a democratic procedure based on the CSCE principles will lead the conflict out of the deadlock. "International relations must be based on what the peoples consider correct and reasonable," he said.

President of Crimea Yuriy Meshkov stated that Crimea did not doubt either Ukraine's territorial integrity, or the current borders.

The Russian diplomat is convinced that the situation in Crimea and in many other places of the former Soviet Union might be eased by the introduction of dual citizenship in Ukraine. "This is a vitally important issue. The Crimean residents I have talked with assert that free choice of citizenship for reasons of family circumstances would demonstrate Kiev's sincerity and inspire hope for a better future," he said.

To quote the Russian diplomat, he would not like to speak or think about "the worst variant" that might happen. "It's simply awful and inadmissible. It would be madness," he said.

He also expressed hope that Kiev would not go beyond the limits of common sense and stick to political methods.

Yeltsin Plans Moscow Summit With PRC's Jiang

LD2305144194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1419 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov and Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[Text] Beijing May 23 TASS—A second Russo-Chinese summit has been scheduled to take place in Moscow early in Autumn. Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin is expected to arrive in Russia at the invitation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Ambassador to China Igor Rogachev told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Deputy Premier of the Chinese State Council and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is expected to arrive in Moscow at the end of June to discuss practical matters connected with preparations for the Russo-Chinese summit.

Chernomyrdin Upcoming PRC Visit of 'Great Significance'

LD2305204894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1541 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[Excerpts] Beijing, 23 May—The Russian and Chinese sides are attaching great significance to the official visit to the PRC by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, which begins on 26 May. Igor Rogachev, Russia's ambassador to China, stated this today in an interview with ITAR-TASS correspondents. The second sitting of the Russian-Chinese inter-governmental commission for trade, economic, and scientific and technical cooperation is to open here 24 hours before talks begin between the two prime ministers. Between six and seven major agreements are expected to be signed during the visit. A large group of ministers will be accompanying Viktor Chernomyrdin. [passage omitted]

The proposed documents will supplement a package of bilateral agreements concluded in December 1992 during a visit by Boris Yeltsin. [passage omitted]

Further Development of Economic Ties Planned

LD2305164994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 23 May 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Irina Bolshova]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—In 1993 China became Russia's second important trade partner (after the Federal Republic of Germany) with the volume of trade turnover of about 7.7 billion U.S. dollars, Oleg Davydov, Russian minister of foreign economic ties, told BUSINESS-TASS today in connection with the forthcoming visit to China of the an official delegation of the Russian Federation headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

It is necessary to resolve a number of problems for the further mutually beneficial development of bilateral economic ties, Oleg Davydov believes. 25-30 per cent of contracts remain unimplemented due to the absence of the real possibilities of cargo transportation. Therefore, this makes it necessary to widen traffic capacities of the existing border crossing points and open new ones, intensify the use of transit directions through Mongolia and Kazakhstan, establish joint transport and construction companies and introduce more actively container transportation.

Both countries are also confronted with an acute problem of insuring the safety of goods, particularly on the Russian territory, the minister noted.

Oleg Davydov also regards as a more and more pressing need to partly reconsider the terms of payments under the inter- governmental agreement on economic and technical cooperation in the construction and reconstruction of industrial objects in China signed on July 10, 1985. According to Oleg Davydov, the currency clearing system of payments under this agreement has lost its advantages and practically has come to inter-state barter transactions.

It is also necessary to take into account changes in the internal economic situation in Russia, specifically the complex financial condition of many Russian plants-suppliers which makes them raise the question of the need to change over to a hard currency in payments for complete equipment delivered to China.

The minister believes that as both countries are short of hard currency it is expedient to reach agreements between their central banks on the partial use of national currencies in payments for trade operations outside the framework of inter-state trade.

The further development of trade and economic ties between the Russian Federation and China will be impossible without strengthening and improving their contractual and legal base. The top priority task in this field must be the signing of inter- government documents on the protection of the rights of intellectual property and on avoiding of double taxation, the Russian minister noted.

It is also probable that in connection with the possibility of both countries joining the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) in the future it will be necessary to review some provisions of bilateral treaties in accordance with GATT requirements.

Difficulties Seen as 'Temporary'

LD2405090994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 24 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Spirin and Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[Text] Beijing May 24 TASS—"The present difficulties in Sino-Russian relations are temporary, of course," Geng Xuncai, a representative from the Chinese Ministry for Foreign Trade and Foreign Economic Cooperation, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Tuesday.

The high-ranking official pins great hopes for their solution on the second meeting of the bilateral intergovernment commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, which will open here on Wednesday, on the eve of the visit by Russian Premier Viktor Chrnomyrdin to China.

Its participants led by Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin who will come to Beijing on Wednesday, and Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing will discuss prospects for transition to new forms of trade and methods of regulating border trade turnover and cooperation in agriculture and the transfer of technologies.

"The two partners should advance major companies to forward positions in trade and investment," Geng claimed. This is necessary to avoid barter which is responsible for 65 per cent of Chinese- Russian trade turnover up to this time as well as to escape a drop in bilateral trade relations which took place in the first quarter, he added.

According to Geng, China is interested in establishing full- fledged business realations in such priority areas as the aerospace industry, chemistry, machine-building and pharmaceutics.

Experts will also concentrate on the transport problem containing the growth of Russian-Chinese trade relations.

Russian enterprises have good prospects for participating in the construction of a mammoth hydropower development, "Sanxia", on the Jangtze River, which is called here "the most spectacular project after the Great Chinese Wall".

Russian trade representative in China Aleksandr Kachanov is also optimistic about prospects for cooperation. "The order book of Russian enterprises for the delivery of complete plant to China up to the year 2000 is worth 1.4 billion U.S. dollars for signed contracts alone," he said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS later in the day.

Russia is among leading suppliers of machinery to the Chinese market. It helps to retool several industrial enterprises, including major fuelled power plants and participates in designing a nuclear power station with a capacity of two million kw in the Liaoning Province.

"It is self-evident that support from state bodies of the two countries is necessary to realise the potential of our relations. We pin great hopes on the meeting of the intergovernment commission," Kachanov stressed.

Many Chinese businessmen engaged in operations with Russian partners have got reasons to review their calcualtions and plans. President Boris Yeltsin's decree on repealing quotas on and licencing of exports, the text of which has just been circulated by the XINHUA news agency, makes a new ten-billion barrier in bilateral trade turnover possible.

Chinese Criminal Activity in Moscow Area Viewed

PM2405090994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 94 First Edition p 8

[Report by Aleksandr Mukomolov: "You Won't Fool Around Under the Interpol Cap"]

[Text] In April in Moscow in a private apartment in the region of the "Bibirevo" subway station staffers of the Federal Counterintelligence Service directorate for Moscow City and Moscow Oblast arrested PRC citizen Lin Chiyu, a 27-year-old from Beijing of Han nationality, a former judo practitioner and unemployed. Following an application from the Chinese side he had been sought by Interpol for crimes on the Beijing-Moscow international train.

No one right now can cite the exact number of Chinese living in the Moscow region. According to very approximate figures in 1992 there were 40,000 of them, now there are 150,000. But the fact that there are many of them and that most are living in Moscow and Moscow Oblast under false documents and far-feteched pretexts is a fact.

The "Alex International," "Tampos," "Orient Express," "Dzhuntan," "Sovindep," "Stamp," "People's Capital," "Min Sin Limited," and "Voyager" companies are rendering PRC citizens active assistance (not for free, of course) in penetrating Russian territory. Thus, in the period from April through October 1993 alone the "Voyager" commercial services company arranged 1,520 visas for PRC citizens.

Stable Chinese criminal communities have formed on the territory of the Moscow region—the "Beijing," "Harbin," and "Fujian" groupings—to send their fellow citizens via Russia to the countries of West and East Europe. The profitable underground business has been joined by the criminal structures of China, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. They have set up ties in Russia and European countries with criminal formations which trade in fake visas and passports. The cost of sending one person is $5,000-15,000 so this business is guaranteed to flourish.

Tens of thousands of Chinese whose fate depends on recruiters, suppliers, shippers, escorts, the producers of fake documents, and the owners of doss-houses have complicated the crime situation in the capital and oblast. Without the means of existence many have been forced to engage in smuggling, the drugs business, and prostitution, often themselves becoming the victims of crime.

Over the past year alone 138 crimes were committed against Chinese, including five murders, 50 muggings, and 33 robberies, while seven crimes were committed by PRC citizens. Actually this figure scarcely reflects the true state of affairs since the Chinese community is characterized by a wall of silence, the absence of those willing to complain, and fear of reprisal.

During the operational investigation measures the capital's Federal Counterintelligence Service directorate managed to close several channels for the illegal immigration of Chinese to the West. Weapons, fake passports and seals and stamps of PRC embassies, consulates, and state institutions and notaries' offices, blank forms, documents of authorization, visas, and other items relating to illegal activity were confiscated.

Since the signing in 1992 of the agreement on cooperation between the Russian Ministry of Security and the Chinese Ministry of Public Security working contacts have been established with staffers of the PRC Embassy in Moscow and representatives of the Ministry of Public Security.

In December last year PRC citizens Yan Chunyou and Yu Haishun, arrested by Moscow counterintelligence staffers, were handed over to the Chinese side. These men had committed serious crimes in China and were being looked for.

But these are only the first steps. The main problems have not been eliminated. Numerous limited partnerships and commercial structures (over 1,200) engaged in the organization of tourist trips to our country and inviting people to work and study are sending out hundreds of thousands of new invitations. But no one is seriously monitoring the placement, stay, and departure of foreigners from the country.

Soon Lin Chiyu will be sent to Beijing under the escort of Chinese Ministry of Public Security staffers but where are the guarantees that on that same day tens of new adventure-seekers will not enter Russia?

ROK Hopes for Russian Aid in Nuclear Problem

LD2305195694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1932 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul May 23 TASS—A recent proposal made by the Russian Government to convene an international conference on security and a nuclear-free status on the Korean Peninsula shows Russia's intention to promote the settlement of the problem, said President of South Korea Kim Yong-sam in an interview with Russian journalists accredited in Seoul. The president spoke in the run up to his visit to Moscow scheduled for June 1-4.

Moscow officials believe that in connection with North Korea's readiness to secede from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the situation must be discussed at a multilateral conference with the participation of Russia, China, the United States, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and representatives from the United Nations and IAEA. Welcoming this proposal, the Korean president said that since at this stage and in connection with its nuclear aspect measures are being taken jointly by the United Nations and the IAEA, this proposal should be regarded taking into account possible developments of the situation and the position of other interested sides. "Probably, it will take some time to realise whether the conference suggested by Russia will be a means of the settlement of the problem," Kim Yong-sam said.

He pointed out that this problem is of great importance for peace on the Korean Peninsula, in the north-east Asia and in the whole world. He believes that Russia is abiding by a principle position, coming out against the creation of nuclear weapons in North Korea, and therefore, upcoming talks at a summit level in Moscow will make it possible to discuss ways of cooperation between Russia and South Korea in this direction.

Asked by ITAR-TASS what message the South Korean president would like to give to his North Korean counterpart, taking advantage of this interview, Kim Yong-sam pointed out that if North Korea really wishes peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula, firstly, it should stop nuclear developments and secondly, begin an open dialogue with the south, rather than attempt to resolve Korean problems through the United States only. The termination of the nuclear programme would be both a means of survival for North Korea itself and a way of ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula, Kim Yong-sam said.

ROK President Previews Upcoming 1-4 Jun Visit

LD2305165794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1637 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul May 23 TASS—The upcoming Russo-South-Korean summit will primarily confirm the fact that constructive and mutually complementing relations of partnership already exist between our two countries, said South Korean President Kim Yong-sam in an interview to Russian journalists accredited in Seoul. The South Korean president spoke in the run up to his official visit to Moscow scheduled on June 1-4.

He pointed out that thanks to summit talks "the sad past will remain in the past" and be replaced by a new epoch of friendship and cooperation. The two countries have become important partners in the process of mutual cooperation in various fields, including economy, culture and security. The president said that he believes that his forthcoming visit to Russia will enable to strengthen friendly relations between the two countries.

Russia plays an important role in South Korea's diplomacy, politics and security since strengthening ties between the two countries is necessary for security on the Korean Peninsula, where confrontation remains since the times of the Cold war, and for the creation of a basis for Korea's peaceful unification and ensuring peace in north-east Asia, the Korean president said.

He pointed out that for over 110 years since diplomatic relations were established in 1884 when a Russo-Korean trade agreement was signed, there have been many twists in bilateral relations, but for a short period of time, beginning from 1990, bilateral relations developed steadily both politically and economically.

Sharing common values, the two countries are going along the way of developing new relations of partnership, friendship and mutual assistance. The president expressed the hope that after his visit the relations between the two countries will become stronger. The president went on to say that for economic cooperation, South Korea and Russia should seek to rely on the principle of mutually complementing each other as much as possible. Kim Yong-sam pointed out that an efficient use of Russia's advanced technologies and natural resources and Korea's industrial technologies and economic experience will enable the two countries to strengthen their competitiveness on the international market.

The Korean president admitted that for various reasons South Korean businessmen had failed to penetrate into Russia on a large scale. However, he expressed the hope that his visit would promote the expansion of Korean investments into Russia, and in particular, in Russia's Far Eastern regions.

Bilateral trade between Russia and South Korea has been steadily on the rise since 1992, and this year, the volume of bilateral trade is expected to reach 2 billion dollars, the Korean president said. He pointed out that during his meeting with Boris Yeltsin the two sides will discuss projects for further development of cooperation, including in such spheres as environmental protection and construction.

Rybkin Meets Slovak National Council Delegation

LD2405103194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 24 ITAR-TASS—State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin on Tuesday received a Slovak

National Council delegation led by Ivan Laluga, chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee, the Duma press service announced.

The two sides discussed prospects for an improvement and development of mutually beneficial contacts between Russia and Slovakia in the economic, scientific and cultural fields, pointing out the importance of developing interparliamentary contacts.

Laluga conveyed an official invitation from the chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic to the State Duma speaker to visit Slovakia at the head of a Russian parliamentary delegation.

Kozyrev to Tallinn 23 May for Baltic Sea Meeting

LD2405080794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is setting off today for Tallinn to take part in a session of the Council of Baltic Sea States. According to RIA, the agenda for the forthcoming forum includes increasing economic cooperation among the Baltic countries and promoting democratic institutions, and several other points. The council will also approve the appointment of a commissioner for democratic institutions and human rights.

Andrey Kozyrev will also hold consultations with the Estonian leadership on bilateral relations.

Russian Minister Calls for Ending Sanctions on Abkhazia

LD2305135894 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1100 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 23 May—Nikolay Yegorov, the recently appointed Russian minister of nationalities, has sent a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, calling for the suspension of economic sanctions against Abkhazia. In his opinion, the conflict in the Abkhazian region has ended as a result of documents signed in Moscow on 14 May.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Appoints Rybkin to Security Council

LD2405065794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0652 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 24 TASS—Speaker of the Russian Parliament lower house Ivan Rybkin was appointed member of the Russian Security Council by a decree of President Boris Yeltsin, ITAR-TASS learnt at the presidential press service on Tuesday.

This was done in connection with the signing of the Social Accord Treaty and in compliance with Article 83 of the Russian Constitution.

Yeltsin Sets Up Liaison Department With Parliament

LD2405075894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0734 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 24 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued an edict, setting up the Department for Liaison with Federation Council and State Duma Deputies [Otdel po vzaimodystviyu s deputatami Soveta Federatsii I Gosudarstvennoy Dumy] within the Russian president's administration. The department will be staffed with existing personnel of the administration.

The presidential press service told ITAR-TASS today that the edict has been issued with the aim of maintaining liaison with Federation Council and State Duma deputies and their associations.

Deputy Privatization Minister Dismissed

LD2405103594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1026 GMT 24 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 24 TASS—Russian Deputy Privatization Minister Valentin Sychkin was dismissed by Viktor Chernomyrdin for "non-fulfilment of resolutions of the president and the Government of Russia on providing premises for federal bodies of state authority and state offices", according to a resolution of the prime minister forwarded to TASS on Tuesday.

Yeltsin Edict on Social Policy Council

PM2405095594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation president's edict No. 1000 "On the Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy" and appended "Statute on the Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy", signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 19 May 1994]

[Text] Bearing in mind the urgency and importance of social policy questions and also for the purpose of elaborating proposals on the identification of priority areas in the social policy sphere in the country, **I decree**

1. To form the Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy.

2. To ratify the attached Statute on the Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy.

3. To appoint Ella Aleksandrovna Pamfilova chairman of the Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy (on a voluntary basis).

4. The chairman of the Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy shall submit the composition of the Council for ratification within two weeks.

5. To form within the Russian Federation President's Staff a working apparatus of the Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy consisting of six members.

The Leader of the Russian Federation President's Staff shall ratify the structure and numerical strength of the working apparatus of the Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy.

6. The present edict shall come into force from the moment of its signing.

[signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation. [dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 19 May 1994

Statute on the Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy

1. The Russian Federation President's Council for Social Policy (hereinafter the Council) is a consultative organ of the president of the Russian Federation created to provide the president of the Russian Federation with information on the situation in the social sphere and also to elaborate a social policy strategy in the country.

2. The Council shall be guided in its activity by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the laws of the Russian Federation, and the edicts and directives of the president of the Russian Federation.

3. The Council's main tasks are:

to keep the president of the Russian Federation informed on processes occurring in the social sphere in the country and abroad;

to prepare proposals on social policy strategy and on the identification of priority areas in its development;

to analyze and provide expert appraisal of draft legislative acts on social questions submitted to the president of the Russian Federation for resolution;

to prepare proposals on the conclusion of interstate agreements (treaties) on social questions;

and to participate in the preparation of official documents and materials of the president of the Russian Federation on social questions.

4. For the discharge of its duties the Council shall be empowered to:

request and receive in the prescribed manner the necessary information from state organs, institutions, organizations, and enterprises;

receive decisions made by the federal organs of state power;

recruit scientific institutions and individual scientists and specialists working for state or nonstate organs, institutions, organizations, and enterprises, including on a contractual basis.

5. The composition of the Council shall be ratified by the president of the Russian Federation.

The Council's members shall take part in its work on a voluntary basis.

6. Sessions of the Council shall be held at least once a month.

For the study of questions, the preparation of sessions, and the performance of expert and analytical work the Council may create working groups acting under the leadership of one of the Council's members.

7. Backup for the Council's activity shall be provided by the working apparatus of the Council, whose leader and staffers shall be appointed by the leader of the Staff of the President of the Russian Federation on the recommendation of the Council chairman.

8. Material, technical, social, consumer, and transportation services for the Council and its working apparatus shall be provided by the relevant subdivisions of the Staff of the President of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin Meets 'Union of 12 December' Members

LD2305180994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1715 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 23 May (ITAR-TASS)—Today in the Kremlin Russian President Boris Yeltsin held a meeting with representatives of the State Duma deputies' group "Liberal-Democratic Union of 12 December," a report by the Russian president's press service, circulated here today says. The participants in the conversation exchanged opinions on a number of topical issues in the country's political and economic life and State Duma activities.

Assessing the first results of the work of the lower chamber of the Russian Federal Assembly, Boris Yeltsin expressed concern about its insufficiently high effectiveness. Incidentally, the Russian president expressed confidence that the Duma will continue to raise the effectiveness of its activities. The Russian president stressed that for his part he firmly intends to continue the course toward constructive cooperation with the Federal Assembly.

During the meeting a great deal of attention was paid to a package of "economic" decrees signed by the Russian president today. Deputies from "the Union of 12 December" expressed their support for the measures they contain and that are aimed at the further development of economic reforms.

Yeltsin To Sign Counterintelligence Document

PM2305162194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 May 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Russia Will Have Its Counterintelligence Doctrine"]

[Text] It is expected that this Thursday [26 May] President Boris Yeltsin will sign the Fundamentals of Russia's Counterintelligence Doctrine. The setting for this will be a conference in the headquarters of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] with Russian counterintelligence leaders.

Informed sources, in giving this information, noted that, in the event that the results of the conference require any modifications to this document, which has already been agreed in principle, the signing will be postponed.

Let us recall that the president visited Foreign Intelligence Service headquarters some weeks ago. However, no conceptual documents similar to those which have been prepared for the conference in the FCS and which would have defined Russia's [foreign] intelligence doctrine were elaborated for that meeting. At the same time, the sources stressed, in his speech to intelligence workers and in his more private talk with the Foreign Intelligence Service leadership, Boris Yeltsin posed a number of fundamental questions—including on the subject of cadres—the essence and details of which are not yet being made public, but which could also be interpreted as defining some of the key guidelines of a possible [foreign] intelligence doctrine.

The sources do not rule out that the counterintelligence doctrine, if it is signed by the president, will be made public, albeit with a number of cuts.

Filatov on Yeltsin's Decision To Meet Dudayev

LD2305135394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1338 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decision to meet with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is based on his concern about the current situation in the republic which poses an "increased threat" to its population and residents of

adjacent regions, including Daghestan and the Astrakhan region, Yeltsin's administration chief of staff Sergey Filatov said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, Filatov said that the date of the meeting has yet to be set.

Observers believe that Yeltsin had been putting off the meeting with Dudayev, waiting for his old foe, former Russian parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov to leave the Chechen Republic where he stayed after his release from prison under amnesty earlier this year. Now that Khasbulatov is in Moscow, the last obstacle has been removed.

Shakhray Interviewed on Dismissal

LD2405103094 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 22 May 94

[Report by correspondent Yevgeniy Kiselev on interview with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray; place and date of interview not given; from the "Itogi" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Kiselev] So you did not know at all that a decision on your resignation was being prepared?

[Shakhray] I learned about the decision after it was made, and the same applies to the new minister. Formally, from the legal point of view, the decision is correct. But there is also such thing as official or human ethics. Therefore, my decision to resign was prompted not by emotions—I had time to think it over—but by the fact that ethical norms were violated.

[Kiselev] Are you under the impression that all this is kind of natural since people from the 1991 August-December period are now leaving the pinnacle of state power and the president is parting with those who featured at the beginning of his activity.

[Shakhray] You know, my feeling—or observation, rather—is that it is difficult for the president to part with people he has worked with for a long time. He finds this difficult as a person. Psychologically, this may show in the fact that after spending a long time trying to resolve a cadre issue, he makes a decision in a very sudden and resolute manner, as if tearing this problem away from him, so to speak, tearing it like one pulls a knot without untangling it. And then we have many examples when we usually say that a person who has been fired found out about his resignation...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Do you think that the president's decision not to accept your resignation, which was read by his press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, also proves the fact that a person finds it difficult to part with his colleagues.

[Shakhray] May be, may be. The other thing is that it should not have been announced by the esteemed Mr. Kostikov. I am not going to mention any personal assessments or lexicon which was used at the time but if it were up to Kostikov to decide, he would have accepted my resignation. [passage omitted]

[Kiselev] What are the real reasons for your resignation? Why is it that you were notified without any warning, that you were simply told that you were no longer the minister for the affairs of nationalities?

[Shakhray] If no motives or reasons are stated in the document releasing me from the post of minister, we can only learn them from either the prime minister or the president. Everything else is just our suppositions. The ministry has become a real tool in the management system. I'll tell you why. [words indistinct] the ministry has real means, power, and financial levers in its hands. For example, seven trillion rubles [R] for Russia's north will be handled by the ministry as well as R40 billion for Russia's Germans in accordance with intergovernmental agreements concluded between Russia and Germany, and R20 billion for the budget fund to support Russia's peoples which is, in essence, Russia's national policy of cultural revival of its peoples and which encompasses textbooks, languages, training of ethnic cadres, and so on. As soon as the ministry becomes a real institution, its ministers are replaced. It is obvious that those who are behind the decision believe that somebody else should operate the control levers. This is the financial reason of what happened. There are also purely political reasons, namely that the ministry is headed by the leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord.

I think this is the outcome of maneuvering which has been going on for many months. Not all of those drawn into these maneuvers even realize what has been going on.

[Kiselev] What is the origin of these maneuvers, as you put it, these intrigues if you like, which have been hatching for some time? Is it the presidential office or the Federation Council? Or do they originate here, within the Council of Ministers?

[Shakhray] Well, again, you and I can only conjecture and assume. I think that the prime minister demonstrated one of his characteristics. He does not like reshuffling ministries or governments which he is working with. He prefers to work with experienced people. So, this maneuvering does not originate with the government. I believe in the principle: Don't judge if you don't wish to be judged yourself. So I won't throw stones of accusation in any direction. I think that all those who have a stake in this maneuvering have drawn the spotlight on themselves without any help from others. [end recording] [passage omitted]

There are many hypotheses about the reasons for Shakhray's resignation. One which deserves special mention is the Chechen connection, the claim that Shakhray's departure is connected with serious disagreements within the Russian leadership about the problem of a settlement with Chechnya. When I asked Shakhray what lay behind these disagreements, he said:

[Begin Shakhray recording] I really feel uncomfortable even talking about this. Why? Because this is not the view of Shakhray, or the view of Shumeyko and Filatov, who allegedly represent a different point of view. The fact is that a formula for settling this conflict is contained in the president's message and in parliament's decision, that is, talks and consultations with the Chechen authorities and consultations with all political forces in Chechnya. The subject of these consultations must be a draft treaty on the delimitation of responsibilities and powers. Then the treaty must be signed after elections have been held—in 1994 or 1995, though the date of the elections is not the issue. If esteemed Vladimir Filippovich or anybody else says that it will not be done that way, that we will solve the Chechen problem a different way, he will be changing the president's official line, changing the State Duma's official line. The entire logic of events is leading up to the following scenario: One of the Chechen leaders will normalize relations with Russia and do his people a favor and himself a favor as a political leader.

All the intrigue began because esteemed Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov arrived in Chechnya. His contacts with aides to Rutskoy and other politicians convince me that he will not sit idle there for long. He will behave as politicians do. He will enter the federal elections, if they are held there under, say, an outline agreement for normalization of relations between Chechnya and Russia. Then a completely different fate will await other politicians.

So, the personification of figures within the Chechen Republic, taken together with their previous incarnation on the Russian Mount Olympus, leads to what you call different approaches. These are not different approaches. I personally believe, all told, that the important factor from Russia's point of view is not personalities—Shakhray, Ivanov, Sidorov, or somebody else. The important thing is to ensure that this tendency, political and economic normalization of relations as a whole, strengthening of Russia's unity and integrity, should make headway. [end recording]

Let us focus on three aspects of Sergey Shakhray's interview which vividly illustrate Russian politics. First, as soon as any state official gets his hands on real political—and especially economic—levers of power, he immediately becomes the target of fierce attack from other politicians—not necessarily from within the camp of his hardline opponents, either.

Second, the interview shows quite clearly that on the Russian political Olympus there are figures who fear the prospect of Ruslan Khasbulatov's return to politics more than they fear the prospect of endless crisis in Russian-Chechen relations.

Last, in spite of everything, Shakhray displays in this interview maximum loyalty to the president—and not just in the interview. He has, as it were, left the door open, saying that he will not make a final decision on whether to resign or not from the post of deputy prime minister until he has had talks with the president—talks which will probably be held next week. However if, as he has said, Shakhray realizes as a result of these talks that it will be impossible for him to operate normally as deputy prime minister responsible, in particular, for ethnic and regional policy, his decision to resign will stand. [passage omitted]

Zhirinovskiy Denies Bribery Charge

LD2305203394

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 23 May carries a 15-minute "Details" program featuring Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, LDPR. This "Details" edition is in response to criticism from the LDPR that the program's announcer Nikolay Svanidze, in a previously edition, said Zhirinovskiy allegedly paid 500 dollars to each member of the LDPR faction to get them to vote for the country's budget.

The program starts with a clip containing Svanidze's earlier comment on the Zhirinovskiy bribes, followed by a three-and-half minute introductory question by Svanidze to today's guest, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who chews his lips, shuffles papers, and tries to interrupt Svanidze's introduction several times.

Svanidze asks how much truth there is in various, sometimes outlandish, rumors circulating about Zhirinovskiy and his party, and why Zhirinovskiy is so upset at the suggestion of his bribing his deputies. To this Zhirinovskiy replies:

"Moscow courts are inundated with our cases about the defense of honor and dignity, my personal dignity, and that of the party. We keep on protesting.

"For the first time in six months you have given me an opportunity to speak here, and only after a measure by the entire faction, when we left the conference hall of the State Duma. In such situations some political figures or even mass media people would resign. The only thing that has happeened so far in our country is that you have finally graciously permitted the leader of a party with a big electoral victory, the leader of the largest party faction, to come here and explain himself in the light of your untruthful accusations. Ninety percent of what has been said about the party in the five months since our electoral victory is lies. Ten percent of those rumors are correct."

Zhirinovskiy goes on to criticize every level of government for not providing him and his party with appropriate offices in the center of Moscow, saying that even petty criminals have better accommodation than the LDPR.

He then goes on to reply to the second part of the introductory question regarding the alleged bribes, saying:

"Well then. No member of the party has received or will ever receive anything from me. You have said that I gave them 500 dollars each. I would not have given even 500 rubles. I will never pay anyone, not even Moscow functionaries. You have told such a lie, such an despicable accusation, and not only against me. You said I paid them, and thus you have insulted the entire faction, the entire party. You spat in the face of almost 13 million voters, who voted for us because we are the most honest group of deputies."

Zhirinovskiy goes on to repeat the same thing several times over, then shouts at Svanidze:

"You tell me, why is it that all the media, including Ostankino, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, the Moscow channel, and all the others, always slander the party? Why is it? We are depicted as fascists, ultra-right wing. Is any of it contained in the party program? You tell me, why is it that you lot, the TV journalists, slander not only me and my party but also the entire country?"

Svanidze replies that even if he wanted to, which is not the case, he never would have been able to spit in the face of 13 million people. As for the media in general, he says Zhirinovskiy often is himself the cause of various rumors.

Svanidze then suggests Zhirinovskiy is trying to present his comment as an insult to the Duma, and then plays a clip in which Zhirinovskiy himself says the Duma has many corrupt deputies. To this Zhirinovskiy replies, shouting at times, that this is all true. According to him, the Central Electoral Commission has discovered that various democratic parties and groups have been supported by what Zhirinovskiy calls "Western intelligence services." He then accuses Svanidze, the media, and everyone in general of not having the guts to accept the fact that his party is the most popular one—and the cheapest as well.

Svanidze replies: "Yes, I understand now that the only clean and cheap deputies, as you say, belong to the LDPR faction." He reminds Zhirinovskiy, quoting one of his own recent speeches, that he likes to deliberately deceive voters, especially women, peasants, and certain national minorities, for their own good. He then suggests the reason Zhirinovskiy is so upset about the accusation of bribery is simply because he is looking for a scandal, as scandals are much more amusing than the daily dreariness of the Duma, and at any rate, Zhirinovskiy is a natural when it comes to scandals.

Amid much shouting and arm-waving from both men, Zhirinovskiy replies that lying is simply an electoral tactic, that there is nothing wrong with it. The rest of his reply is lost in simultaneous shouting from both men and the program ends.

Zhirinovskiy Charges Use of Foreign Funds in Elections

LD2305193194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1903 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy accused the Russia's Choice and Yabloko blocs of using foreign funds in their election campaign in December 1993.

Speaking on Russian television on Monday, Zhirinovskiy said Russia's Choice and the Yabloko Bloc received money from foreign organisations, claiming that he had obtained this information from a report of the Central Electoral Commission.

Zhirinovskiy also denied allegations by political analyst Nikolay Svanidze that he had allegedly paid the members of his party faction in the State Duma 500 U.S. dollars each to support the federal budget. "None of the members of our faction has ever received any payment and never will," Zhirinovskiy said. Svanidze did not provide any proof.

Zhirinovskiy said his Liberal Democratic Party of Russia is "the most honest" party and members of its faction in the State Duma "the cheapest" deputies, because they cost the state less than any other party in the election campaign.

Representatives of Russia's Choice and the Yabloko Bloc were not immediately available to make explanations.

Zhirinovskiy Discusses Political Situation

OW2305084294 Tokyo ASAHI Newstar Television Network in Japanese 1213 GMT 22 May 94

[Interview with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party in Russia, in Moscow by ASAHI Newstar Television political commentator Soichiro Tahara from Tokyo via satellite on the "Sunday Project" program; date not given—recorded, in Russian with passage-by-passage translation into Japanese; translated from the Japanese]

[Text] [Tahara] Mr. Zhirinovskiy, good morning. I would like to thank you for appearing on our interview program. In general elections held last December, the Liberal Democracy Party [LDP] led by you won many seats, triggering a big sensation around the world. How has Russia changed since the LDP was formed?

[Zhirinovskiy] Russia has not changed at all since our party has not been in control of the government. The LDP's advances in the Duma at the end of the general elections means the emergence of a patriotic party there. Our party has worked to release all political prisoners by seeking amnesty for them. Our party is working to improve the economy. At present, our party is working to overcome difficulties facing our nation's economy by helping the government. At the same time, our party is

demanding the replacement of some cabinet members. Specifically, our party is demanding the replacement of six cabinet members. Mr. Shakhray, one of the six cabinet members, has already quit the cabinet. Mr. Kozyrev, whom the Japanese like, will soon resign as foreign minister. I believe that a new government will be inaugurated in the fall. In this way, our party has been influencing Russia's domestic and foreign policies. Needless to say, our party is directly influencing the president.

[Tahara] In search of a political truce, President Yeltsin concluded a national consensus accord with other political parties on 28 April. We at first thought that the LDP would reject the president's offer. At present, the Russian Communist Party and other parties rejected the president's offer. But your party signed the accord. Why did your party sign that accord?

[Zhirinovskiy] The truth is just the opposite. Our party will continue to fight President Yeltsin. Our party has never stopped the fight even one day. If our party takes a hard-line stance on the president, the president would challenge our party. Our party intends to seize power by merely exposing the president's faults. Our party plans to become the largest party after giving the president a chance to step down.

[Tahara] Mr. Zhirinovskiy, you are making very soft comments today. According to the results of recent polls conducted by Russian newspapers, the popularity rating of you and your party is falling. What is your opinion?

[Zhirinovskiy] Poll results are faked. The influence of me and my party is growing across the nation. If a correspondent from your TV station visits a Russian town with me, he would instantly see this. I plan to visit a town in Moscow next Sunday. If the correspondent from your station visits the town with me, he would find how much influence I have. Russian TV and newspaper reports are 90 percent false. You would see this if you recall what the Russian media reported before and after the 12 December general elections. I know that the best party is mine. You are speaking based on false figures and information. To be honest, the most powerful party in Russia is the LDP. As a politician, I am in a leading position. In Russia, no politician can stand shoulder to shoulder with me. Therefore, Russian politicians fear and slander the LDP. Japan also is slandering our party.

[Tahara] Mr. Zhirinovskiy, you visited such European nations as France and Poland. During your stay in those nations, you made radical and nationalistic statements. You were expelled from Bulgaria and Slovenia for such statements. Why did you make such radical statements?

[Zhirinovskiy] I have never intended to worsen Russia's relations with other nations. The Bulgarian Government probably did not like me, but thousands of Bulgarians welcomed me, throwing flowers at me and kissing my hands. What is important to me was the Bulgarian people. To speak of Poland, I had no problem in Poland. The Polish people warmly greeted me. Many nations have invited me to visit. It is true that I have caused troubles. The LDP is a new party. I think that some nations still do not understand what sort of policies the LDP pursues and what sort of party it is. It is true that an international organization is moving to block the LDP from expanding its influence at home and abroad. I do not like to cause trouble.

[Tahara] Mr. Zhirinovskiy, are you satisfied with Russia's current borderlines with other nations? Or are you thinking of further expanding Russia's current borders?

[Zhirinovskiy] The Soviet Union's former borderlines must be Russia's borderlines. Our party holds this idea. I think that Russia needs to change its borderlines to strengthen its security. There is no problem with Russia's borderlines in the Far East. There also is no problem with Russia's borderlines to the north, but there is a problem with Russia's borderlines to the west. The problem with Russia's borders in the west can be resolved in an economic way. The three Baltic nations, Byelarus, and Ukraine will return to Russia sometime in the future. To the south, however, war is raging in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Islamic forces cannot be taken lightly and the interests of major nations are intertwined in the region. We need to draw new borderlines in this region to keep the region from posing any threat to Russia.

[Tahara] Looking at President Yeltsin's foreign policy, it is said that he has usurped Zhirinovskiy's policy of pursuing a superpower. What is your opinion?

[Zhirinovskiy] I and President Yeltsin have many areas of agreement. I am now on good terms with him. I believe that the time will come when the president will dismiss cabinet members our party opposes and our party's platform will become Russia's platform.

[Tahara] Are you joking?

[Zhirinovskiy] No, I am not joking because the Russian Government has been changing its domestic and foreign policies little by little.

[Tahara] Who do you think you will succeed President Yeltsin?

[Zhirinovskiy] I intend to run in the presidential election if and when it is held. There is no other candidate to compete with President Yeltsin in the election. All other Russian politicians are weak and cowardly. The presidential election can be sooner if Mr. Yeltsin wants to hold it sooner. If Mr. Yeltsin does not hope to advance the presidential election, it will be held 12 June 1996. A new president will be chosen in the election. I assume that the presidential elections could be held earlier.

[Tahara] Mr. Zhirinovskiy, how are you going to deal with Japan? What do you think of Japan?

[Zhirinovskiy] I think we can build up a special relationship with Japan. Although Japan is an advanced nation, it is in need of raw materials. Russia has abundant raw

materials. Also, Japan is seeking a positive solution to the northern territorial dispute between the two countries. But you cannot expect the settlement of this dispute if Japan negotiates with the Communist Party or reformists.

[Tahara] What do you think of the northern territorial issue?

[Zhirinovskiy] Whomever we negotiate with, we will give nothing. But there is an option that will satisfy Japan. I myself have explained this option several times to Japanese people, including the Japanese news media. We will never give away the islands for nothing. But if Japan shows its understanding about Russia's plan to draw new boundaries in the Mediterranean and the Indian Sea, where war is currently being waged, I think we can offer a reasonable and well-balanced solution that will satisfy Japan.

We have a problem in the south. We need new boundaries in areas south of Russia, including the Caucasus, Central Asia, Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan. If Japan takes sides with us or adopts a neutral position on this issue, we will be able to pay more attention to the northern territorial dispute. If Russia acquires new territories in the south with Japan's help, no one in Russia will oppose the Kremlin's proposal that the northern territorial issue be settled on favorable terms to Japan. In this case, we can protect the two nations' interests. Russia can protect its interests in the Mediterranean, while Japan can protect its interests in the Sea of Japan, the Sea of Okhotsk, and the Pacific Ocean.

[Tahara] Do you mean that depending on terms, Russia might possibly return the northern territories to Japan?

[Zhirinovskiy] I cannot answer your question because what we discuss here will be heard by millions of people and people in other countries. Negotiations on this matter should be made in a place where secrecy can be maintained. This is not a matter to be discussed on a TV program. We should discuss this issue in a place where secrecy can be maintained and while looking at maps. Reviewing historical facts, each side should submit their options for the solution. We will then discuss the options' good points. This should satisfy Japan.

By the way, I am planning to visit Pyongyang in August this year. It is not far from Pyongyang to Japan. So, how about my visiting Tokyo at that time and discussing in detail this issue? I do not want to fly to the Far East twice. As you know, it takes nine hours by plane. Let us discuss it at a different place. I do not mind discussing it at the Defense Agency or the Foreign Ministry or at a government special service agency.

[Tahara] Let me confirm what you have just said. You want to visit Japan and you are asking me to make arrangements for the visit. Am I right?

[Zhirinovskiy] I can visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 10 August to show that I am pro-Japanese. I think the United States' atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a cruel criminal act. I think it is not so bad for the Japanese to hear the leader of the largest party in Russia calling for solidarity between the two nations.

Rutskoy Defends Public Speeches

PM2405111194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 1

[Text of document signed by former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, dated 19 May 1994 and delivered by him to the Moscow City Prosecutor's Office, under general headline: "Reply to the Authorities"]

[Text] As is well known, acting Russian Prosecutor General Ilyushenko has instructed the Moscow City Prosecutor's Office to investigate the legality of the public utterances of opposition leaders on 9 and 14 May 1994. On 19 May former Russian Vice President Rutskoy gave explanations to the Moscow City Prosecutor's Office. Rutskoy's attorney, Yu.P. Ivanov, who was present when these explanations were given, asked our editorial office to publish the full text of them.

To the Moscow City Prosecutor's office from Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy

Explanations

In connection with the series of questions raised by representatives of the Moscow City Prosecutor's Office about my speeches on 9 May 1994 and 14 May 1994, I am able to provide the following clarification.

First, I should like to note that the investigation of the legality of the actions of the participants in the rally which took place during the Victory Day demonstration is being carried out on the direct instructions of acting Russian Federation Prosecutor General Ilyushenko. In my view, this post does not exist. There can only be an acting prosecutor general if there is a legally appointed prosecutor general who is temporarily absent—on vacation, for example. In this instance President Yeltsin, ignoring his own Constitution and the opinion of the Federation Council, is keeping one of his own minions in this artificial post (acting prosecutor general). It is no coincidence that former Prosecutor General Kazannik calls Ilyushenko nothing more than a puppet. Ilyushenko does not have even an elementary notion of personal dignity. One might think that after the vote at the Federation Council, which rejected his nomination, Ilyushenko would simply have given up his claims to this post. But he has not done so, and this, it seems to me, is the best indication of his moral qualities. He has a definite interest in me. It was he who, together with Andrey Makarov [staffer of Interdepartmental Commission To Combat Crime and Corruption], was a most active liar who spread rumors which impugned my honor and dignity when he accused me of involvement with some Swiss bank accounts which I was supposed to have. In so saying, in my view, he not only lied but also

committed perjury. And I hope that Ilyushenko will still be accountable for this vile act.

As for my actual actions on 9 and 14 May, I see nothing unlawful in them. The texts of my speeches contain nothing "criminal."

Yes, I believe that today the country is being ruled by a regime of President Yeltsin's absolute power.

Yes, I believe that this regime is pursuing an antipeople policy of selling out to foreign interests and thereby destroying our Motherland.

Yes, I believe that representatives of the patriotic opposition must come to power in the country, and I hope that, despite all the regime's convulsions, victory will go the patriots.

Yes, I believe that it would be good if this happened by the 50th anniversary of the Victory over Fascism, that is, by May 1995.

I think that the unification of various social forces and support for their demands by the majority of the people will force President Yeltsin to honor the public commitment he made (and which he himself is crudely violating) to call early presidential elections. I hope that these elections will be won by the presidential candidate for whom the most important thing is service of the people and the Motherland, a candidate who will pursue an economic program which reflects first and foremost the interests of the hapless working people today.

It was just such a result that I had in mind when I spoke about the future victory! That is how I see it.

I believe that my speech was couched in ideological terms which are the norm today. That is how many political leaders speak today, and there was nothing unusual in my speech. The propresident sycophants (officials in the president's entourage as well as journalists who serve the regime) are using far harsher terms about me and the patriotic opposition.

So why do they find my replies intolerable? The answer is obvious. These people live in a state of perpetual fear. The fear of responsibility. Responsibility for what they done: the destruction of a mighty Fatherland—the USSR; the impoverishment of the majority of the people; the gunning down of the legislative authorities; and much more. The only way in which these cliques can suppress that fear is by driving their political opponents into the concentration camps. In my case they want to find a new pretext for arresting me. I despise these pygmies. And I think I have the right to criticize them publicly irrespective of the fact that they are "representatives of the authorities." In my criticism of this or that individual there is no legal norm which would oblige me to make my criticism commensurate with the office in question and thus I am not breaking the law. But there is one thing of which I want to assure those ordinary citizens who believe in me—I am prepared to stay in jail the rest of my life for the sake of my people, my Motherland, and its true interests. I have not appealed to Yeltsin and his puppets for a pardon and I am not going to.

Nor can I make any comment on the burning of the Russian Federation flag because I simply did not see that happen. I can only express my own opinion about why this flag was burned. Today's Russian Federation flag looks like the one that was used during the Great Patriotic War by Vlasov's traitors. For that reason I can understand the feelings of former front-liners who fought against Vlasov's traitors and defended a different flag—the red flag. And defended it with their blood....

I have nothing more to add to that.

[signed] A.V. Rutskoy, 19 May 1994

Soyuz Group Calls For Revival of 'Unified Union'

PM2305140394 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 4

["'Soyuz' Group Appeal"—SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA headline]

[Text] Dear compatriots, fellow citizens, and friends!

We are now in the third year of the great tragedy of which the "Soyuz" group of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies repeatedly warned. It is time to sober up: Not only the peoples but also their leaders have had bitter experience of "salvation" apart. Now everyone sees that this is impossible. Our strength resided and will reside in the unity of peoples and territories. Our strength resided and will reside in the correct cause of mutual assistance, sincere friendship, and cooperation. Our strength resided and will reside in the clear realization that each of our peoples stands to gain more in a unified Union than without it.

The restoration of a unified Union should not be seen as the restoration of the featureless dominion of the totalitarian bureaucracy. That would be a step back. The basis of the new union must be a political, economic, legal, and cultural area of multiethnic states.

In that form cooperation between peoples and states will make it possible to make the best use of the wealth of natural resources, industrial potential, and possibilities of agriculture. This will ensure the highest labor productivity—the only real basis for an increase in the standard of living and prosperity of all peoples and society as a whole. The state's coordinating role in the development of the economy should be commensurate with the acuteness of the social tasks that this state is urged to resolve by the whole course of history. By virtue of its uncontrolled laws of price formation, competition, and the activity of investment areas, the market should not be the main regulator of commodity and money relations.

Only a unified army and unified state security organs can be the guarantors of the state's national security. The state should provide the defenders of the fatherland with firm social guarantees.

We deputies within the "Soyuz" group have not betrayed our principles and remain true to our positions to this day despite the taunts unleashed against us by many mass media. We previously advocated the preservation of the unified state, and today our main and sole objective is the restoration and strengthening of the state system, the restoration of our common home—as a renewed union of peoples—and the unity of all our territories.

As you know, during the Second "Soyuz" Congress the group was reorganized into an all-Union association of deputies of all levels, and the "Soyuz" People's Foundation was set up. A presidium session has decided to hold the third congress of the "Soyuz" movement at the end of July 1994.

We appeal to all members of the "Soyuz" deputies' group, to people's deputies past and present of all levels, to all those who support a strong, unified state—a Union of peoples—to step up the work of our organizational structures in the localities and enlist the public at large.

Today "Soyuz" is ready to cooperate with all parties and movements that aim to revive our unified state for the sake of national peace and harmony and for the sake of the well-being and prosperity of our peoples.

It is still not too late, it is still possible to restore our common home—the Soviet Union.

[Signed] G.I. Tikhonov, chairman of the "Soyuz" People's Foundation; V. Alksnis; S. Baburin; V. Varennikov; G. Kadyrov; N. Muradyan; F. Salmanov; A. Chekhoyev; V. Yakubov; B. Oleynik.

Burbulis Interviewed on Yeltsin, Politics

LD2205200594

[Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1700 GMT on 15 May carries a live or recorded interview with Gennadiy Burbulis, State Duma deputy and former chief presidential advisor, by correspondent Yevgeniy Kiselev in Moscow.

Kiselev begins the conversation by saying that many people of the presidential team were sacked recently or have fallen in disgrace, all of them from the Democratic Russia party. As an example, he cites (?Sabyanin) and Filippov. He asks Burbulis if it is a chain of coincidences or if there is some logic in it.

Burbulis answers: "I believe one cannot build a vision of a deep strategy on these two examples. Simultaneously, the administration has brought in such powerful thinkers as Yasen, Lifshitsh, or Baturin. These are the president's very good buys."

Kiselev goes on to say that in his recently published memoirs, Yeltsin speaks more than candidly about his early comrades-in-arms, namely Yegor Gaydar and Gennadiy Burbulis himself. He asks if it means that in political terms, Yeltsin is now bidding good-bye to his political past when liberals were his closest allies.

Burbulis answers: "I am not excluding this. I believe, however, everything is not so simple. Today Yeltsin is looking for a new social base and a new political structure and professional environment. Unfortunately, he still insists he is the president of the entire people, but his personal psychological directives are not reflecting the real situation in the country."

Kiselev wonders whether what Burbulis means is that there are social groups in the country that do not acknowledge Yeltsin as a leader.

Burbulis says: "No doubt, there should be a will and an ability to search for consensus with opponents and the ability to create an attractive and a convincing environment that at the same time would be clear for a grassroot voter as well as attractive for the intellectuals in society. Here our president is facing big problems today. Yeltsin's prestige was based more on the idea of a charismatic leader who is able to tackle global issues personally. This image met the psychology of fast, easy results and victories over the past. But that time is gone. Now endlessly blaming communists for ruining the country, or endlessly praising themselves—'we are democrats, who had courageously taken on the responsibility for society and who now have the right to influence it, because of our political record'—all this is no big deal any more, it is all secondary."

Kiselev says this statement seems to contradict the stance of his former allies in the Democratic Russia and Russia's Choice parties.

Burbulis disagrees, saying: "I do not agree with your question. Unlike you, I can't describe my political allies in Democratic Russia as former. They have been and remain my allies. There is a question of a different understanding of the strategy and tactics of achieving the same human, normal, and kind ideals that united us in the first place."

Kiselev says that Burbulis left Russia's Choice and that is why he uses the word former. Burbulis continues: "I have not abandoned my allies politically or personally. I have come out to welcome the new political reality in the country, new ideas and people."

Kiselev presses on, saying that after discovering Gaydar to political life, Burbulis ended up being pushed out and is not even a supporting principal any more.

Burbulis replies: "I regret very much not being able to give a distinct explanation for my recent decisions and having to constantly put this idea that Gaydar and Burbulis were unable to share the posts behind me. I think you know very well why I left the government. It

was at the insistence and strategically stubborn pushing of the opposition and at the demand of Khasbulatov."

Kiselev says the Yeltsin memoirs give a completely different version of the reasons for Burbulis's departure, saying that the president asked him to take a rest.

Burbulis says: "I agree that it is perfectly natural for a man to get tired and, in that regard, I both understand and agree with Boris Nikolayevich. It is for God to judge his opinions and conclusions."

Kiselev asks if Burbulis finds the harshness of some of his assessments and conclusions offensive.

Burbulis responds: "I'm not offended at all. I think he has the right to his ideas and opinions. But he should be quite tolerant as regards the analyses to which I think his memoirs will now be subjected, because there was a certain human etiquette and unwritten code in our political relations. In the case in question, when the president opens the door through his writings and invites us to express our opinions on the key problems of Russian history of that period, then we're not talking about competing with him, but of the moral right we have been given. I think this will be realized very quickly."

Kiselev asks if Burbulis intends setting up a party of his own now that he has left Russia's Choice.

Burbulis answers: "I am convinced we do not need at all costs to set up a party as such. We need to assist the formation of an efficient party system in the country. This system is in fact already being formed, but lacks two principal, essential elements. We have two oganizations—what they call themselves is not important. What is important is that one of them will be closer to the so-called social-democratic program. So the need arises to form a right-of-center organization completely loyal to the ideas of the liberals. This organization, in union with the social democrats, must be set up not by people drifting from the communist bloc in a desperate attempt to get votes; it must be set up consciously by people who have taken on reform and who have a strategy they understand."

Kiselev asks if Burbulis sees himself as the leader of this party, or as second man in the shadows, the man who would "push to the fore some charismatic leader."

Burbulis answers: "I do not see myself as someone who could be a useful or nice leader, either in a party or state structure. My experience has taught me that I have skills others do not possess. But, aside from the temptation of taking up such a role or post, my strengths, in my opinion, lie elsewhere—in my ability to work out long-term strategic ideas for the development of the country, society, and state."

Kiselev refers to the problem of finding a successor to Yeltsin.

Burbulis replies: "We suffered from illusions that it would be easy to find a president who would come along and put things right quickly. There is also the pyschological law of electoral campaigns and of the society's socio-psycholgical state. As far as I understand it today, that law requires us to give a clear and honest answer: if it's not Yeltsin, and if we are speaking about the generation of 40- to 50-year-olds, the country does not know that person yet."

Media Issues

Shumeyko Sees Media Bill Violating Ban on Censorship

LD2305145994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The head of the Russian Parliament's upper house Vladimir Shumeyko believes that the Duma should suspend its debate of a federal bill on media coverage of state power structures and return it for additional scrutiny.

As Interfax has learned from well-placed parliamentary sources, Shumeyko addressed to Duma's Chairman Ivan Rybkin a letter, saying that "the bill looks like an army drill instruction and has nothing in common with democracy and the free press." Its enactment, in Shumeyko's view, "may induce a significant infringement of the freedom of the press in Russia, and endless and senseless law-making activity since both the Constitution of Russia and the Federal Media Law would have to be changed."

Drafted by the Information Policy and Communication Committee, the bill contravenes article 29 and many other points of the federal Constitution. In Shumeyko's opinion, "the constitution's ban on censorship is covertly breached by a whole range of the bill's clauses."

"Although the draft law starts with independence guarantees, it ends with threats of trial, criminal punishment, penalties and sanctions. Yet, in Russia's Penal Code there isn't a word about punishing a journalist for doing or not doing what a state body wished him to do," Shumeyko remarked.

Annulment of Communist Paper Registration Ordered

MK2405073294 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 22 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Around the Clock Non-Stop" rubric: "Newspaper Is Illegal But It Does Not Care"]

[Text] Yesterday, the Judicial Chamber for Information Disputes under the Russian president completed hearing the case of an illegal registration of the AL KODS, a Communist newspaper.

The court deemed that the Ministry of Press and Information violated Articles 7 and 13 of the law on the mass media in registering the publication. They say that foreign citizens who are not permanent residents on the territory of Russia cannot register their publications.

At the same time Shaabad Hafez, citizen of Jordan, has been publishing this newspaper for over two years. The Russian Press Committee has been ordered to annul the false "certificate of registration."

The newspaper does not despair nevertheless. An AL KODS fete is to take place at the Central Tourist House. Rutskoy, Khasbulatov, Umalatova, Terekhov, Baburin, Zyuganov, Nevzorov, Prokhanov, Chikin, and the friend of the Arabs, Zhirinovskiy, have been invited. It has even been promised that the ambassadors of Iran and Iraq will be on hand.

IZVESTIYA Hits Censorship Reimposition Attempts

PM2405095194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Reincarnation of the Censor...."]

[Text] The IZVESTIYA editorial office has received an "official warning" signed by V. Volodin, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for the Press. We received the latest "reprimand" for the same reason—because IZVESTIYA published in issues Nos. 14-18 1994 an article by I. Dementyeva entitled "War and Peace in Prigorodnyy Rayon."

Quoting several sections from the article, the author explains why the "warning" has been given. Certain claims and statements "serve to kindle ethnic intolerance and enmity." Following this formidable, peremptory criminal-legal diagnosis it only remained to cite Article 74 of the RSFSR Criminal Code under which the offender should be indicted..... But the point is that the Russian Committee for the Press has clearly gone beyond the bounds of its competence and exceeded its authority. The only bodies that could in this instance determine the legal nature of the article are the prosecutor's office and a court. But things did not reach the courts since the Russian General Prosecutor's Office refused to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the publication of I. Dementyeva's article owing to absence of criminal events and corpus delicti.

You get the impression that when formulating its decision the Russian Committee for the Press availed itself of the ruling on this matter produced by the Court of Appeal for Information Disputes, whose findings the editorial office categorically rejected (see IZVESTIYA No. 59 for 30 March this year). But even this ruling does not say a word about kindling ethnic enmity. It is quite possible that some third body, which has arbitrarily assumed the functions of a reincarnation of the censor, will draw an even more radical conclusion.

Incidentally, attempts to take charge of the press are becoming more and more aggressive. Recently a certain current information center sent to IZVESTIYA the actual ruling of the Court of Appeal for Information Disputes and the Republic of North Ossetia Supreme Soviet decree. The accompanying letter peremptorily asked for these documents to be published and ended with the unprecedented postscript: "Please inform us of the dates of publication." The center's leader A. Remizov could not find anything to say in response to our official query (a purely rhetorical query, to be frank) as to the normative documents on which this request was based and he did not press for his demands to be met.

There have recently been repeated attempts to subordinate IZVESTIYA and you know how they have ended. The editorial office and the creative collective are resolutely rejecting the latest attempts.

ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Most Popular Paper

LD2205202794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY still remains the most popular newspaper in Russia. INTERFAX has received this information from the All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion. In mid-May the center conducted a poll among 1,600 people in Russia. This showed that 23 percent of those polled always read this weekly. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has moved to second, while the third spot is held firmly by the SPID-INFO magazine, read by 11 percent of those questioned.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Collection of Taxes, Duties

LD2305172894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] According to a decree on complex measures to ensure prompt and entire collection of taxes and duties signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin Monday, all taxpayers will have to register in the State Taxation Service. The decree stipulates that taxpayers may open accounts with banks only if they have been properly registered.

If an enterprise violates the procedure, it will be administratively imposed a fine of one hundred minimum salaries. At the moment, the minimum salary in Russia is 14,700 rubles.

In case of a repeated violation, the taxation service reports it to the Central Bank of Russia. The tax evader will be abolished and its incomes confiscated by the treasury.

According to the decree, a taxpayer may have one current and one budget accounts with a bank for his operations within the scope of his activities.

Taxpayers must submit information on their open accounts, including hard currency, loans, deposits both in Russia and abroad.

The decree came into force once signed.

Yeltsin Edict on Reforming State Enterprises

LD2405105194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1850 GMT 23 May 94

["Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on Reform of State Enterprises"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] With the aim of ensuring management of the state sector of the economy and effective utilization and preservation of state assets in the Russian Federation, I RESOLVE as follows.

1. That it be deemed necessary to implement, beginning in 1994, a reform of state enterprises that entails:

an end to the creation of new federal state enterprises assigned and enjoying full economic rights over state assets;

conversion of a limited number of federal state enterprises under liquidation into economically-active establishments—treasury [kazennyy] factories, treasury plants, and treasury economic units—which shall assume the right to operational management of all the assets of the federal state enterprises under liquidation.

2. That rulings to liquidate federal state enterprises and convert them into treasury factories (treasury plants, treasury economic units) shall be made on the following grounds:

use of allocated federal resources for purposes other than intended;

failure to derive profit for the previous two years;

breach of existing rules governing use by an enterprise of state immovable assets assigned to its economic control.

In this Decree, a breach of existing rules shall be construed as inclusion of such assets into enterprises' authorized capitals (subsidiaries' excepted), or their disposal by lease, sale, or transfer to the use of other incorporated entities without the authority of the relevant state body.

3. That rulings to liquidate federal state enterprises and convert them into treasury factories (treasury plants, treasury economic units) shall be applied only to industrial or agricultural federal state enterprises:

engaged in activities reserved by federal laws exclusively for state enterprises;

of whose products (works, services) the primary consumer (over 50 percent) is the state;

privatization of which is prohibited by the State Program of Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises.

Other federal state enterprises may be liquidated and converted into treasury factories (treasury works, treasury economic entities) in circumstances laid down by federal laws or decrees of the President of the Russian Federation.

4. That a ruling to liquidate federal state enterprises and convert them into treasury factories (treasury plants, treasury economic units) shall be made by the Government of the Russian Federation if one or more conditions, envisioned by clause two herein are presented by either the relevant bodies of the executive power or the enterprise itself.

Such a ruling cannot be made with regard to a federal state enterprise not prohibited from privatization by the State Program of Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises and having submitted a privatization application by 1 July 1994 in accordance with the established procedure.

5. That during adoption of a ruling to liquidate federal state enterprises and convert them into treasury factories (treasury plants, treasury economic units], the Government of the Russian Federation shall:

determine the composition of the commission on liquidation which shall liquidate the enterprise in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation;

allocate means for the liquidation of federal state enterprises;

decide on the federal body of the executive power which immediately after liquidation will confirm the articles of association of treasury factories (treasury plants, treasury economic units) created from liquidated federal state enterprises.

6. That during the creation of treasury factories (treasury plants, treasury economic units) from liquidated federal state enterprises, the following shall be prohibited:

reduction in the number of jobs compared to that at the liquidated federal state enterprise upon decision to liquidate;

refusal to employ employees of the liquidated federal state enterprise;

assignment of assets of part thereof of the liquidated federal state enterprise to other incorporated entities or individual persons.

All expenditure on the liquidation of a federal state enterprise and also on settlement with its creditors shall be from the federal budget.

7. That a treasury factory (treasury plant, treasury economic unit) created from a liquidated federal state enterprise:

shall be the successor to the liquidated enterprise in respect of federal funds previously allocated and also in

respect of usage of land, natural resources, and subterranean resources, and quotas and licenses;

shall independently market its products (works, services) and utilize profit, unless otherwise stipulated by legislation of the Russian Federation or its articles of association;

shall not create subsidiaries, be a founder investor of other enterprises, establishments, and organizations without the consent of the Government of the Russian Federation or an authority appointed by it;

shall not dispose of, let, transfer use of, or mortgage immovable state assets assigned to it without the consent of the Government of the Russian Federation or an authority appointed by it;

shall receive credits only against guarantees of the Government of the Russian Federation.

8. That the standard articles of association of a treasury factory (treasury plant, treasury economic unit) created from a liquidated federal state enterprise shall be endorsed by the Government of the Russian Federation.

The articles of association of a treasury factory (treasury plant, treasury economic unit) shall define:

its accountability requirements in the forms stipulated by the Government of the Russian Federation;

the personal liability of its director for its economic performance;

its obligation to utilize federal funds according to their intended purpose;

the type of business and profit-sharing procedure.

9. That the Government of the Russian Federation (or authority appointed by it) shall be entitled to confiscate from a treasury factory (treasury plant, treasury economic unit) assets not used or used for other than the intended purpose.

10. That the Government of the Russian Federation shall:

by 1 July 1994 endorse the standard articles of association of a treasury factory (treasury plant, treasury economic unit) created from a liquidated federal state enterprise;

by 1 August 1994 define the procedure for planning and financing the activities of treasury factories (treasury plants, treasury economic units), including maintenance of social amenities assigned to them, pricing of their products (works, services), their finance from the budget and also remuneration of their workforces;

by 1 July 1994 hear the chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Management of State Property on compliance with deadlines for consideration of privatization applications and on the results of work to privatize state and municipal enterprises in the Russian Federation.

11. To recommend to executive authorities of constituents of the Russian Federation that they reform state enterprises under their ownership, and to local authorities that they reform municipal enterprises.

12. That this Decree shall enter into force upon publication.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation
B. Yeltsin, Moscow, the Kremlin, 23 May 1994

Yeltsin To Lower Tax Burden on Producers

LD2305174294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has told the government to introduce in parliament by September 15 draft laws to lower the number of taxes, decrease the level of profit tax and VAT by 10 to 20 percent and also the level of taxes related to the rate of pay and production. At the same time, his decree of May 23 raises the level of tax for individuals as well as for the property of individuals and corporate entities.

The decree, which aims to limit inflationary processes, reduces the number of goods eligible for a special 13 percent VAT rate (against the usual 23 percent).

From June 1 the rate of payment to the Social Security fund will be lowered from 5.4 to 3.4 percent of the sum of charged wages.

The government is also to adopt a resolution within the next two months concerning the possibilities of accelerated amortization of capital funds in highly technical branches of industry.

The decree lays down that production enterprises, the foreign share of whose capital is no less than 30 percent or 10 million dollars and which were registered after January 1, 1994, will not have to pay profit tax for the next two years. Profit tax in Russia is up to 38 percent.

Further on Yeltsin Decrees on Production Issues

LD2305164894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 23 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] According to the head of the presidential expert team, renowned economist Aleksandr Livshits, the current situation in Russia is very much alike that in December 1991. Like then, the political situation is quite stable and favorable for reform. The main goal in the economic sphere now should be to stabilize the consumer market and prevent the industries from a collapse, he told a briefing in the Kremlin Monday.

On behalf of the Russian president, Livshits said that the head of the state had signed a package of five decrees called to impose order in the production sphere. Livshits pointed out that Boris Yeltsin fulfilled his constitutional duties and his obligations under the Social Accord Treaty by signing these documents.

According to the first decree, Russian exports will not be quoted or licensed as of July 1 1994, except for those under interstate agreements already concluded.

The second decree deals with taxation. Taxes currently paid by enterprises are expected to be cut down by about 10-20 percent. Simultaneously, the government was asked to consider restructuring taxes paid by individuals. The decree envisions privileged taxation for enterprises with foreign capital provided they produce goods within Russia.

The third decree is devoted to the reformation of state-owned enterprises. According to this decree, no more federal enterprises entirely owned by the state will be set up. Part of state-owned enterprises will fall into administration. Their directors will enjoy limited rights but will bear full responsibility for their activities. Livshits emphasized that employees of such enterprises would have proper social guarantees. He made clear that such enterprises would be set up on the basis of enterprises not liable to privatization and at the same time poorly managed.

Livshits drew journalists' attention to the decree on additional measures to normalize payments defining the sequence in which payments from an enterprise's current accounts should be made. If an enterprise is short of rubles, it will have to cover the debt with hard currency. To implement the measure, a federal bill chamber will be created.

The fifth decree is devoted to strengthening the taxation discipline. Legal entities found guilty of dodging taxes for the first time will be imposed a huge fine. After a second attempt, the enterprise will be closed. Livshits pointed out that the decree also envisioned a mechanism for speeding up the consideration of enterprises' suits to each other.

Another decree the president signed today is not directly concerned with the perfection of industrial relations as it provides for the consolidation of means of the road construction fund in the federal budget.

Livshits categorically dismissed the possibility of any limitations of freedom on the Russian market by the above-mentioned decrees. "These documents are called only to impose basic order in the production sphere. The only freedom infringed upon is the freedom to steal as much as before," he was quoted as saying.

According to Livshits, the package will allow to do away with the poor management of the state-owned sector. He said it was impossible to endure any longer such abuses as one's leasing state property to oneself or use of state funds for other purposes.

In an answer to journalists' questions, Livshits stressed that the package was only the first step the president made to protect the Russian industries. "We hope a second one will follow," he said.

Livshits pointed to the important part to be played by the government and parliament to make the decrees work since the very first day.

Edict Lifts Quotas, Licenses on Export Goods, Services

LD2305223494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1730 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 23 May—The following is the text of an edict by the Russian president "on the lifting of quotas and licenses on goods and services for export":

"To regulate the export of goods and services as well as to create equal economic conditions for all parties supplying goods beyond Russia's borders, I decree:

1. That it be established that from 1 July 1994 quotas and licenses for goods and services exported should be applied only with regard to those goods and services exported in accordance with international obligations of the Russian Federation.

2. That the Russian Government should from 1 July 1994 revoke all privileges with regard to the levying of customs duty on exported goods, including budget allocations for the payment of customs duty. This applies as well as to the export of goods and services for federal and state needs (except for goods exported to the countries of the near abroad in accordance with inter- governmental agreements). This excludes privileges granted in accordance with the Russian law "on customs tariffs," the Russian law "on excise duty," and the Russian customs code.

3. This decree comes into force from the moment of signing.

[Signed] Russian President B. Yeltsin, Moscow, the Kremlin
[Dated] 23 May 1994

Aide Holds Briefing on Economic Reform Edicts

PM2405094594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 24 May 94 p 2

[Report by political observer Yuriy Lepskiy: "'Essentially Reform Is Only Starting Now,' Aleksandr Livshits, Leader of the Russian President's Group of Experts, Stated at a Kremlin Briefing"]

[Text] Yesterday President Yeltsin signed six edicts which begin a new stage in the economic reform. The president's new edicts contain a number of clauses which

can only be described as sensational. They include the repeal of quotas and licenses for deliveries for export. A whole tribe of officials who used to receive bribes for issuing licenses and quotas will remain without "under the counter" earnings. A special edict of the president has put taxes in order. It is planned to reduce their number and to lower them by 10-20 percent. A preferential tax regime is being introduced for enterprises with foreign investments, only in the production sphere, it is true.

The creation of new federal state enterprises is ending. Some of the existing ones will be transformed into public enterprises. The president's edicts also provide for the introduction of order in clearing operations.

In Aleksandr Livshits' opinion this is the start of a fundamental reform in the state sector economy about which a lot has been said recently but for whose reform they have not had time, being engaged in political battles. This stage of the reform, he believes, has become possible only with the advent of relative political stability in Russia and the president's edicts are nothing other than the literal execution of the commitments he assumed under the social accord treaty.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discusses Economic Decrees

LD2405125094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1215 GMT 24 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 24 May (ITAR-TASS)—At a meeting in the Kremlin today Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin discussed the development of mechanisms to implement the latest package of presidential decrees on economic issues, aimed at intensifying and invigorating the reforms.

The Russian president and prime minister considered a number of draft decrees on the economy which are under preparation. The Russian Federation president's press office told ITAR-TASS that personnel issues were also discussed at the meeting.

Viktor Chernomyrdin told Boris Yeltsin about the progress in talks with Ukraine's acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy in connection with the situation in Crimea.

Deputy Minister Urges Fixed Ruble Exchange Rate

LD2405114294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1136 GMT 24 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Galkin and Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow May 24 TASS—A Russian Government member reported a "certain economic stabilisation" in the country and said it is necessary to introduce a fixed rouble exchange rate to promote investments into the economy.

"A number of measures taken by the government allowed to stabilise the situation in the economy to a ceratin extent", Deputy Economics Minister Sergey Vasilyev told a conference in Moscow on Tuesday.

Among the measures he listed the strengthening of the rouble in comparison to the national currencies of other former Soviet republics, curtailing monthly inflation to 8-9 per cent and cancelling easy-term crediting, import subsidies and export quotas.

However, Vasilyev believes that it is necessary to introduce a fixed rouble exchange rate to further strengthen the Russian currency. To stipulate production it is necessary to attract finances of the population, he said and added that in order to stabilise the rouble in general and return to it the trust of most depositors it is necessary to introduce a fixed rouble exchange rate.

The fight with inflation remains the main task of the government this year, according to Vasilyev who said that it is necessary to decrease the budget deficit to achieve the goal. The deficit currently amounts to 10 per cent of the gross national product, according to him. However, he said it is impossible to cut state expenses. The deficit can be decreased through restructuring the state spendings which would take some two-three years.

Vasilyev also urged to improve tax collection which dropped to 10 per cent of the gross national product last year. He admitted that tax dodging sharply went up from the middle of 1993. The total amount of collected taxes should reach 16 per cent of the GNP to stabilise the situation in the sphere, according to him.

Dubinin Reprimanded for Failing To Provide Financing

LD2305142294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 23 May—Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin has received a reprimand from the Russian president for failing to carry out the head of state's instructions. He failed to provide financing to scientific and educational institutions on time.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this from Sergey Filatov, head of the presidential administration, today.

Influx of Refugees Strains Local Resources

PM2305100594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Aleksey Belyanchev and Marina Lebedeva report: "Refugees: Long Time of Torment"]

[Text] This photograph was taken in a corridor of "Samargorgrazhdanstroy's" hostel, whose top, ninth floor has now been taken over by refugees from hot spots in the former USSR and from those CIS countries where the Russian-speaking population has felt discriminated against. Some of the refugees have already lived here for more than a year, paying between 20,000 and 30,000 rubles a month for a tiny room. Twenty-six families are housed here, while approximately 6,000 such people have been registered, in all, in Samara alone. Since many plants in the city are idle or are "half-working," it is very hard for the newcomers to find work. The refugees' prospect of acquiring housing is also virtually nil. The municipal budget is inadequate to house even those on its own waiting list. According to Oleg Sysuyev, the city's mayor, Samara has given up practically all it could to accommodate the refugees—rest homes, guest houses, tourist bases....

The situation in Samara is archetypal for many cities in Russia.

As of 1 January this year, according to the data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were 609,085 refugees and displaced persons in the Russian Federation, and this figure is growing. The average percentage of the number of refugees and displaced persons in the Russian Federation as a whole stands at 0.47 percent. The North Caucasus region is most saturated: The Ingush Republic—approximately 50 percent of the size of the local population; North Ossetia—7.5 percent; Stavropol Kray—3.5 percent; Krasnodar Kray—2.7 percent; Rostov Oblast—0.7 percent. The percentage of refugees and displaced persons is higher than the average for the Russian Federation in certain oblasts in the Central Region: Belgorod and Tambov Oblasts—0.8 percent; Orel Oblast—0.6 percent; Kaluga Oblast—0.5 percent.

In 1992, as is known, the Russian Federation Government adopted the long-term republic program "Migration" geared to supporting refugees and displaced persons from countries in the near abroad. But it is being implemented with tremendous difficulty. Until our economy starts working in the new, market way, the country will be unable to substantially ease the lot of migrants and other categories of people who find themselves in dire need.

Military & Space Issues

Development of 'Smart' Weapons Priority

MK2405101594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian, 24 May 94, p 2

[SEGODNYA report: "Russian Military Give Priority to Re-Armament"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Defense Ministry thinks that "the program for a scientific-technical head start" in rearming the Russian Army should be financed on a priority basis. Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy defense minister, told SEGODNYA that according to the Defense Ministry's military-technical policy approved by the president and the Russian Federation Security Council, a special program has been worked out for this purpose. It is aimed first of all "at developing smart weapons and means of protection from them and also at achieving a high level of efficiency of a relatively small, but formidable army," Andrey Kokoshin said. To this end, a working group at the Defense Ministry's Military-Technical Policy Council has been set up. However, according to the working group experts, "its implementation is under threat because of the drastic deterioration of the situation with defense spending."

Deputy Supports Higher Defense Expenditure

MK2405070894 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 May 94 p 1

["NG" report under the "In Brief Rubric: "Irina Khakamada is for the Military"]

[Text] State Duma Deputy Irina Khakamada supports the recommendations of the enlarged session of the Russian Federation State Duma Defense Committee on increasing defense spending to 55 trillion rubles from the 37.1 trillion that figure in the draft Russian Federation budget currently under discussion in the second reading. This sum could ensure that the cost stays at the 1993 level in the actual implementation of the budget. The Defense Committee's amendment did not go through, however, at its first reading. Explaining her position, Mrs. Khakamada said this is the minimal cost needed to preserve the armed forces' combat effectiveness, maintain important defense products, and carry through military reform. The position on the question is a matter of principle for me, she stated. It is the direct function of the state and one of its main duties to increase the country's defense capability, as well as to solve the social problems of servicemen and of their families, even if there is a budget deficit. This constitutes the fundamental difference between keeping defense outlays at the necessary level and deficit financing of inefficient sectors of the national economy. Sustaining the army even at the cost of a budget deficit makes the state stronger in the final analysis, whereas uncontrolled spending of funds dictated by the lobbyists of various sectors only weakens it.

Defense Unions Concerned With Cutbacks

LD2305171494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] A statement sent on Monday to Duma members by the leaders of four Russian defense trade unions, speaks of the inevitability of the Russian government repealing the state order for the defense industry if the cut-backs in state funding of arms purchases laid down in the draft 1994 budget remain in force. The leaders base their call on the fact that the money reserved will only pay for the debts for goods already produced. In

addition, 80 percent of defense enterprises will go bankrupt and 1.4 million people lose their jobs simultaneously.

The statement stresses that 30 trillion rubles will be required for the payment of unemployment benefit alone and the inhabitants of 70 factory towns will be without means for survival.

In order to prevent such a turn of events, the leaders believe it essential to insist on the preservation of the level of funding in line with the state order for 1994 and on opening credit lines for conversion programs. They also call on deputies to take measures to increase the budget income by stimulating production, collecting taxes fully, effectively organizing the sale of arms and military technology abroad as well as the export of civilian products produced at military plants following conversion, with the direct involvement of the producing enterprises.

Grachev Orders Economies in Defense Ministry Funds

LD2305181294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—Before flying to Brussels Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev signed a special directive which orders heads of all ranks to tighten measures to economize on funds allocated for the national defense.

First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin and the chief department for the military budget and financing of the Defense Ministry are assigned to control the implementation of this directive, informed sources from the Russian Defense Ministry told ITAR-TASS today.

The document accentuates that under the conditions of the stiff budget it is necessary to maintain the most important components ensuring combat efficiency of the Russian Armed Forces.

At the same time, military experts note, these measures taken by the defense minister, will hardly save the situation if the State Duma (the lower house of the Russian parliament) does not agree to increase the military budget from 37.1 trillion roubles to at least 55.0 trillion roubles which was approved in principle by the duma Defense Committee.

In the estimation of the chief department of the military budget and financing of the Defense Ministry, in the first four months of 1994 the Defense Ministry received about 4 trillion roubles which put the Armed Forces and enterprises carrying out military orders in an exceptionally complex condition.

Military representatives do not agree that they are guided by narrow departmental interests. Speaking at a news conference on a military budget recently held at the State Duma, Andrey Kokoshin noted that he was taking measures to resolve the current crisis of mutual nonpayments by enterprises and stimulate the output of high technology products for the civil use—transport, communications, television and power grids—with the aim of increasing the budget revenue item.

He explained that in a bid to get a larger sum of allocations for the defense, experts meant not to increase it but maintain this sum of financing at the level of 1993 in comparable prices. No less than 60 per cent of these funds will be spent on social needs which have considerably grown in connection with the withdrawal of Russian troops from republics of the former Soviet Union and former socialist countries, and providing them with dwellings and amenities.

The Russian president, the head of the government and the chairman of the Federation Council expressed their agreement in principle with the need to increase the defense budget, Andrey Kokoshin pointed out.

"The 37.1 trillion roubles intended for the defense and approved by the State Duma at the first reading will be enough only to pay salaries and money allowances to the troops," the defense minister told journalists at a news conference on May 19. "If the Army splits the most awful thing may happen—nobody will be able to stop hungry soldiers," Pavel Grachev emphasised.

Ground Force Chief Cited on Recruiting Reservists

PM2305132594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 94 pp 1-2

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Reserve Officers Called Up Again"]

[Text] Some 13,000 reserve officers and graduates of higher educational establishments [VUZ] with military faculties will this year receive a notice from their military commissariat inviting them to join up for the next two years. The edict on their drafting has been signed by the Russian president. This was announced to journalists by Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Ground Forces.

More accurately, the notification from the military commissariat will be received, of course, by far more than 13,000 officers—the Defense Ministry will be choosing who will and will not be selected, and not all of those "invited" will want to swap their apartments and jobs for a barracks and a test range. But, nontheless, the Army is firmly convinced that it will get the required number of "reservists" without too much difficulty. The situation in the labor market today is such that many VUZ graduates cannot put their knowledge to good use. They will be more comfortable in the forces.

Admittedly, after several years of "vetoing" the drafting of "reservists," the Army has been forced into this

action. Last year 6,623 lieutenants were dismissed from the most widely held officers' positions—platoon and detail commanders—in the Ground Forces alone. This accounted for 45 percent of the total number of those discharged, including pensioners. The figure for the first quarter of this year is already 1,674. This is 37 percent. And, despite the fact that 3,000 of the 3,512 graduates of military colleges will be joining motorized rifle units and combined units, there is virtually nobody to educate and train the men. The staff shortage in primary officers' posts is 17,931.

But there is also a shortage of soldiers and NCO's. Subunits are almost 50 percent undermanned. This spring the Ground Forces should be drafting just 27,000 men, but they need 260,000. The one hope, say regulars, is for "contract servicemen." There are now 82,000 of them in service, and there will be another 90,000 this year. And the "professionalization" of motorized rifle units will reach 30 percent.

The Army is being helped out for the time being by women. There are 56,000 of them serving as soldiers and NCO's. This, in Gen. Semenov's opinion, will not solve the Ground Forces' staffing problems, but it all creates at least some basis for maintaining a definite level of military readiness on the part of subunits.

The Ground Forces' problems are the same as those facing all of the Armed Forces. There is no money—there is a two-three month backlog of officers' salaries and a chronic housing shortage. There are 51,000 people in motorized rifle and tank units without housing, and by the end of this year the figure will be 55,000, despite the fact that foreign firms will hand over 33,356 apartments by January. The withdrawal of troops from abroad, the lack of funds for capital construction, and the sharp increase in construction costs will continue to exceed the rate at which apartments are obtained.

Nonetheless, despite the reduction in its numbers over the past few years (the Ground Forces have been reduced by 154,000 men to currently stand at around 600,000, and generals' positions have been halved—there are now 474 of them), Colonel General Semenov is still optimistic. He believes that the reforms in his troops, despite everything, are under way, and by the time the reforms are complete his units will be stronger, more mobile than at present, and prepared to carry out any tasks that they are set.

Progress M-23 Docks With Mir Space Complex

LD2405080694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0710 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 24 May (ITAR-TASS)—The Progress M-23 automatic freight craft docked with the manned Mir space complex at 1019 Moscow time today.

The freight craft docked with the complex at the Kvant module. Fuel for the joint propulsion unit, a reusable ballistic capsule, equipment, scientific apparatus, food, and water was delivered into orbit.

According to telemetric data and reports from cosmonauts Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachev, and Valeriy Polyakov the systems on board the orbital complex are working normally.

Federal Assembly

Duma To Examine Local Constitutions

MK2405090294 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 May 94 p 2

[Yelena Tregubova report under the "Federation" rubric: "Duma To 'Check' Regional Constitutions. Deputies Mistrust Post-Soviet Laws"]

[Text] Today, the State Duma is scheduled to hold hearings on the consistency of the constitutions and charters of the Federation components with the Constitution of the Russian Federation. According to the hearings' sponsors—members of the State Duma committee on the affairs of the federation and regional policy—the presidents of Kalmykia, Tuva, and North Ossetia agreed to attend the hearings. The other regions will be represented by "the authors of local constitutions and charters." The staff of the Russian president will apparently be represented by Sergey Filatov, who "promised to come to open the hearings if he can." The sponsors have said that Sergey Shakhray, who, although removed from the post of minister for the affairs of nationalities and regional policy, evidently is not going to weaken his contacts with the regional leaders, also plans to be present at the hearings. Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko will not attend because he is currently in Latin America, so the Senate will be represented by his deputy, Ramazan Abdulatipov.

Aleksandr Arinin, member of the Federation Committee, said that "the Treaty on Social Accord is designed to speed up the process of bringing regional constitutions in line with the federal one." A total of 17 out of 21 republics that are part of the Russian Federation have their own constitutions. According to Mr. Arinin, territorial constitutions "can be divided into three types:" old constitutions of Soviet socialist republics (in Mordovia, Chuvashia, Udmurtia, Mari-El, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, and Dagestan); new constitutions adopted before 12 December 1993 (Tatarstan, Sakha-Yakutia, Chechnya, and Tuva); and constitutions adopted after the new Russian Fundamental Law went into force (Bashkortostan, Buryatia, Ingushetia, Komi, and Karelia).

Activists of the State Duma committee have told your SEGODNYA correspondent that, in their view, "republican constitutions adopted after 1992 are most inconsistent with the Russian Fundamental Law." As for the

"Soviet-type" constitutions, Deputy Valentin Mikhaylov thinks, "they have minor deviations that can be eliminated fairly easily."

To all appearances, an entirely different view will be held by an expert commission of the Central Electoral Commission and the executive authorities, which has recently "studied the Mordovian Constitution as to its consistency." Even according to the experts' preliminary impressions, Mordovian laws are inconsistent with the new Russian Constitution precisely because "they effectively recreate the Soviet system." Duma deputies were not certain, however, that the commission's findings would be made public during the parliamentary hearings.

Interestingly, at yesterday's news conference State Duma Deputy Yegor Zhirkov, an author of the Sakha-Yakutia Constitution, protested against the Federation Committee members' using unlawful terms, such as "the violation of and inconsistency with the Russian Constitution," regarding his republic's fundamental law. "Our Constitution was checked by expert commissions from Moscow; in particular, Boris Topornin noted its full consistency with the fundamentals of the constitutional order," Deputy Zhirkov assured.

The committee members promised that they would insist on setting up "a joint commission on constitutional reform" to include representatives of executive and legislative authorities of the center and the regions so as "to devise a single approach to making on a contract basis possible changes to both regional constitutions and the new Russian Constitution."

However, the deputies themselves conceded that reaching "a common approach" would be nearly impossible even during today's hearings, because some influential State Duma factions think that republics may only be formed according to the territorial principle, while Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, for instance, even demands that all republics be reduced "to the level of governorates."

Rybkin Regarded Most Influential Duma Deputy

MK2005103594 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 20 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Rybkin is Top of the List"]

[Text] The Russian Center for Political Culture Studies has conducted a regular poll among experts asking them to rate on a 10-point scale the political influence of State Duma deputies this past April. The experts included parliamentary journalists of leading newspapers, radio and television and political scientists.

Their findings, wired in an INTERFAX report, indicate that Speaker Ivan Rybkin holds the lead just as in previous polls. While remaining uncontested leader, his April rating dropped to 7.6 points from 8.2 in March. Political scientists put this down to the fact that a considerable number of his supporters demanded his resignation over his conciliatory stance on the president's version of the Treaty on Social Accord.

The runner-up is the Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov with 6.2 points. The poll results indicate that he is becoming an increasingly weighty and acceptable political figure in the eyes of both presidential supporters and the opposition. G. Zyuganov was third in the March poll.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Liberal Democratic Party of Russia leader, is back among the three top deputies (he scored 6 points in April up from 5.4 in March) after the Duma supported last month his suggestion that the internal affairs minister should quit over the killing of deputy Ayzderdzis, and after he negotiated his signing of the Treaty on Social Accord with the president's team.

The budget debate jacked up the rating of Sergey Glazyev (Democratic Party of Russia), chairman of the Duma Committee on Economic Policy, who published in April a draft program of the "Accord in the Name of Russia" opposition movement. He scored 5.6 points.

Next comes Grigoriy Yavlinskiy (Yabloko) who managed to move in the April poll to fifth position from 17th in March.

Yegor Gaydar, "Russia's Choice" leader, dropped to sixth position from second in March over his weakened influence on the decision- making process in the State Duma.

Vladimir Isakov (Agrarian Party of Russia), Sergey Shakhray (Party of Russian Unity and Accord), Viktor Ilyukhin (Communist Party of the Russian Federation), and Aleksandr Vengerovskiy (Liberal Democratic Party of Russia) are in the upper part of the table as they have always been in the Center for Political Culture Studies polls.

Regional Affairs

Shumeyko Tours Strategic Missile Units in Ivanovo

LD2005141994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Chairman of the Russian Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko decided to personally look into the state of affairs in the Russian Armed Forces on the eve of the upper chamber's examination of the military budget. On Friday he left for the Ivanovo region, where a missile army is stationed.

Shumeyko was accompanied on his trip by commander-in-chief of the strategic missile troops Colonel-General Igor Sergeyev. The missile army is partly armed with the newest "Topol" missile system, destined to become the core of Russia's future strategic missile forces.

Igor Sergeyev told ITAR-TASS that today's talks between the missile troops command and Vladimir Shumeyko would center around the problems faced by those troops. These problems, he said, "are rooted in the share of the budget which is to be allotted the strategic missile troops".

Shumeyko will be shown the troops' battle capabilities and the main components of the training which those who are entrusted with the country's nuclear weapons must undergo. The Federation Council chairman intends to meet with some of the army's officers as well.

Sergeyev said he was grateful to Shumeyko for deciding to first visit the strategic missile units before making a decision on the military budget. "That is explainable, since the Russian military doctrine lays the most responsibility for the state's safety and stategic stability on our forces. The strategic missile troops are the main component of Russia's strategic nuclear forces", the general said.

He further noted that the many problems encountered by the troops are being resolved without compromising their battle capabilities and reliability. The strategic missile troops had to shoulder most of the responsibility under the START-1 and START-2 international disarmament treaties.

At present, the commander-in-chief explained, about 60 per cent of the rocket carriers and warheads of the strategic nuclear forces are concentrated in the missile troops. These types of weapons are due to be reduced to one-sixth their former size. Sergeyev also pointed out that, even without any international treaties, Russia would have to eliminate the weapons which used to be produced in the other ex-Soviet Republics.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev declared at a recent press conference that the country's strategic nuclear forces were the main guarantee of Russia's security in the modern world. At present as well as in the future, the top priority in the development of the armed forces will be given to strategic nuclear weapons, which are the main deterrent factor against any outbreak of hostilities, he said.

The divisions and regiments of the strategic missile troops, which are at the centre of the nuclear forces, are now being technically reequipped. In the last two years, seven more missile regiments have been made battle-capable, all equipped with new stationary and mobile missile systems.

At the same time, strategic missile units are being withdrawn from the other ex-Soviet Republics. By the end of 1994, another four missile regiments are due to be relocated to Russian territory.

Troops Increase Control in Ingushetia-Ossetia Zone

LD2305163894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1116 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 23 May—Mobile groups of Russian troops have stepped up control over the safety strip between North Ossetia and Ingushetia. ITAR-TASS learned on Monday that this had been done in line with an instruction by Vladimir Lozovoy, the head of the interim administration.

In the meantime, a wide-scale "transport" operation aimed to strengthen the state of emergency regime is under way in the zone where the regime is in force. It envisages thorough check-ups of vehicles, trains, train stations, and airports. It was reported that dozens of fire-arms, hand-grenades, various rounds of ammunition, and drugs had been confiscated from passengers over the past three days.

Information obtained by ITAR-TASS from military sources makes it possible to conclude that the situation in the North Ossetian rayons where the state of emergency regime is in force until 31 May remains relatively calm. No night shellings or attacks on army or militia posts or interethnic conflicts have been registered here in the past 24 hours.

Kostikov Appeals to Residents

LD2305175794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1725 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—Russian presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov called on the citizens of North Ossetia and Ingushetia to resist provocations aimed at thwarting the process of conflict settlement in the region.

In a statement issued on Monday, Kostikov said that extremists have lately stepped up their activity in the war zone in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. Violence against civilians, hostage taking and killings continue in the region. There have been attempts to involve Russian soldiers and officers carrying out a peace-keeping mission in the region to involve in the war.

"Especially inadmissible are the facts when representatives of the local administrations become organisers of and participants in acts of violence. Russian authorities will not tolerate glaring violations of human rights and law in the zone of the state of emergency," Kostikov said.

Calling on the people of North Ossetia and Ingushetia to resist provocations of extremists seeking to derail the peace process in the region, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stresses that law enforcement bodies in the war zone have all necessary rights and means to stamp out extremism and protect the civilians, Kostikov said.

Munitions in Maritime Kray To Be Defused

PM2405100194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 May 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Announcer-read report over video of Maritime Kray arms depot explosion aftermath]

[Text] The scale of the damage resulting from the explosion at the Pacific Fleet's aviation depot has become known today. Maritime Kray Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko held a briefing for journalists. According to his words, more than 1,500 tonnes of high explosive bombs, missiles of various classes, and anti-infantry mines and projectiles went up in the air over several hours. A number of projectiles and missiles fell on Bolshoy Kamen which is located many kilometers from the scene of the explosion.

Nazdratenko said that sapper units from the entire Far East are being summoned to Maritime Kray to comb through the area and defuse munitions which failed to explode.

Voronezh Oblast To Accept Tax Payments in Kind

PM2305132794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 1

[Valeriy Mirolevich report: "Taxes To Be Paid to Oblast Budget in Kind"]

[Text] Voronezh—The reciprocal nonpayments crisis has sharply reduced tax revenue to the oblast budget, which is why Voronezh Governor A. Kovalev has signed the decree "On Payment in Kind of Enterprises' Financial Obligations."

Henceforth and until times improve, enterprises, by agreement with the administration, will pay their taxes in the form of their own output. The local authorities intend to use barter to acquire the goods which the oblast needs. Enterprises' debts to the budget will be considered cleared only after deals have been completed by an administrative intermediary.

St. Petersburg Property Fund Chief Interviewed

944E0834A St. Petersburg NEVSKOYE VREMYA in Russian 18 May 94 p 3

[Interview with Valeriy Krasnyanskiy, head of the St. Petersburg Property Fund, by Valentina Shestakova; place and date not given: "I Consider Myself a Member of Sobchak's Team"]

[Text] *A new head of the Property Fund has been appointed—Valeriy Krasnyanskiy. For seven generations the tradition has been for the eldest sons in the Krasnyanskiy family to became jurists. In 1971 Valeriy finished postgraduate studies. In 1980 he began to teach at the university's law school.*

In 1986, together with Petr Filippov, Anatoliy Chubays, and others, he took part in creating the Perestroyka Club; in 1989 he was in charge of Yuriy Boldyrev's election campaign. In 1990—elected to the city soviet; 1993—appointed a member of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

[Krasnyanskiy] I have not had any illusions regarding communism almost since childhood. In school, I studied with opposition-minded professors and associate professors who ended up there via the second Leningrad case. I envisaged the reform of the Soviet system as more evolutionary, through.

I was not a supporter of shock therapy: First we needed to correct the situation in the economy, then free people's spiritual life from control, and only then change the political structure. However, we want everything and right away. Well, this seems to be Russia's fate...

[Shestakova] Does it not seem to you that there is something insulting to the individual about voucher privatization?

[Krasnyanskiy] Each of us received a voucher and had the opportunity to invest it. Those who were luckier and smarter found a good place for their vouchers and receive dividends. In addition, each employee owns part of his enterprise's property. Everybody was given a chance to become an owner.

[Shestakova] St. Petersburg is ahead of practically all the regions in the pace of privatization.

But have we not paid too high a price? Do you not think that running in front of the locomotive was somewhat artificial?

[Krasnyanskiy] On the all-Russia scale—no. Life always makes it difficult for those who are ahead. But what has been taking place is moral, because the concept of voucher privatization turned out to be viable. Vouchers stimulated the formation of the stock market and created conditions for attracting investment for enterprise development.

Seven million privatization vouchers have been collected in the city, which exceeds St. Petersburg's population. The process of secondary privatization is beginning, where small investors' shares will pay off.

The second stage will begin after 1 July and will proceed in keeping with the "Post-Voucher Privatization Concept" developed by the State Committee for Administration of State Property. Those who did not want to undergo reorganization have been left on the sidelines. Now they face either gradual privatization or getting the status of a state-owned entity. Socialist methods of administration will be applied to such organizations: record-keeping and control, strict limitations on wages, and so on.

[Shestakova] Grounds keepers will appear on the streets again...

[Krasnyanskiy] Apparently so.

After 1 July stock will be sold only for money. Therefore, before assuming 51 percent of stock, the labor collective will have to think it over many times. The best privatization option will be the first one, under which the collective keeps 25 percent of nonvoting preferred stock, which is more attractive for investors.

No restrictions are envisaged for foreigners in buying and selling stock. Although we should not count too much on foreigners' help—they are in no hurry to come to Russia.

[Shestakova] Will there be land vouchers?

[Krasnyanskiy] As securities—probably not. But investors want to have ownership rights not only to the enterprise but also to the land lot on which it is situated. The Property Fund has prepared the corresponding documents; they are currently in the approval stage. So selling land will be permitted de facto. Its value will be determined by a scale approved by the city council, after applying certain coefficients.

Among the new features in the government program of privatization of state and municipal enterprises in the Russian Federation after 1 July is the possibility of putting up for investment auction both entire enterprises as a whole (not just a block of stock) and selling through an investment bid the rights of cofounder.

At the end of May the concept of the St. Petersburg program will be submitted to the judgment of the government.

[Shestakova] And here, again, "there are possibilities," since the program of post-voucher privatization is not yet ready, which means that the legislative base will be formed as we go.

[Krasnyanskiy] Unfortunately, you are quite close. First, the program does not specify the time frame for the transfer of payments, and on these grounds frictions may develop with the treasury and the tax inspection. Also, it is not clear what constitutes directly privatization activities of our fund, since part of it is taxable and the rest is not. The confusion arises mainly because normative acts are drafted by people far removed from jurisprudence.

[Shestakova] Any person in a government job is guilty all-around these days. Remember, like in the movie "Wedding in Malinovka": "a change of authority..." Today it is the whites, tomorrow the reds, and then the striped. The one at the end of the line is at fault. And this usually befalls the direct implementers of privatization at the slightest shift in the political course. Does this not frighten you?

[Krasnyanskiy] Every reform is associated with difficulties; it inevitably brings down the standard of living, causes discontent, and becomes associated not with the objective process but with the people implementing these reforms. If I find myself to be the last in line, I will be guided exclusively by my own convictions and the law.

[Shestakova] What team do you associate yourself with?

[Krasnyanskiy] The reformist one. And as a functionary—with Sobchak's team.

Oblast Communist Party Head Interviewed

944F0724A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 18 May 94 p 5

[Interview with Viktor Kuznetsov, secretary of the oblast committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, prepared by Vladimir Kuzmenkin; place and date not given: "Not Only Flag- Waving...."]

[Text] **The Communist Party of the Russian Federation has the biggest party organization in Novosibirsk Oblast in terms of numbers. The communists managed to get two of their representatives elected at the recent elections to the oblast soviet—both winning in Berdsk. Viktor Kuznetsov, secretary of the oblast committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, answers our questions today.**

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] Viktor Yegorovich, how many communists are there in Novosibirsk?

[Kuznetsov] The Communist Party of the Russian Federation has approximately 4,500 members. An oblast committee of the party and rayon committees operate.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] What, in each rayon?

[Kuznetsov] In all but three rural districts, although there are communists there, of course.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] We all remember full well what the former CPSU oblast committee was. Is the oblast committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation similar?

[Kuznetsov] No, it is not at all the same thing. Our oblast committee is made up of people elected from the rayons: 56 persons working on an unpaid basis. We hold plenums bimonthly. There is, naturally, no administrative system such as there was, just as there are not the opportunities for influence that the CPSU oblast committee had.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] Does the Communist Party of the Russian Federation consider itself the successor of the CPSU? I do not mean only in the ideological sense....

[Kuznetsov] In a property respect we undoubtedly consider ourselves the successor of the CPSU. Although this is a question around which there are a great many difficulties. But this is not the most important issue, the main thing for us is restoration of the organization. The people who have today gathered together in the party ranks have done so not because they will be given some position for this and not because they can shout at

demonstrations. Yes, there are people who express themselves this way, but normal people who adhere to a balanced position have come together in the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. At this time, for example, we are discussing the party program, and I can say that such documents were never discussed so thoroughly before.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] The CPSU had immense experience in the most diverse matters. Why do you reject it?

[Kuznetsov] This is a very complex issue. We are reaching the general conclusion that we cannot yet make full evaluations as to why and in connection with what everything happened. What was good and what was bad. It is still too early to speak of all this with confidence. Work on comprehension of the processes is under way, of course, research centers and scholars are at work. But, I repeat, it is still too early to draw the final conclusions.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] Who is in the ranks of the Communist Party today?

[Kuznetsov] Older people are preponderant, undoubtedly. There are few young people as yet, but there are young men in the university, for example, who are joining us. More than 30,000 young people joined the Communist Party of the Russian Federation nationwide in the period from last October through this April. What is happening in the country is forcing people to think, comprehend the situation, and make a choice.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] You are united, most likely, by a rejection of Gorbachev and his policy?

[Kuznetsov] Well, Gorbachev is Gorbachev.... Rejection, of course. There were big mistakes and much of what is now seen as treachery. We have to evaluate why it happened this way. What enabled events to develop this way, not otherwise. There were, after all, the rules.... But the nomenklatura was victorious. When the primary party organizations attempted to depose the general secretary, so to speak, he held on to his position with the aid of the bureaucratic machinery and the entire nomenklatura system.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] What, then, there are no people from the former nomenklatura in the Novosibirsk organization of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation?

[Kuznetsov] Why not? There are! And why not, for example, lend an ear to Aleksandr Pavlovich Filatov, former secretary of the oblast party committee, who left all communists thinking good thoughts about his work in this office. He has now been restored to membership of our party. And Vladimir Aleksandrovich Mindolin also is a member of the Novosibirsk organization of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] Do you intend to form your faction in the oblast soviet?

[Kuznetsov] The times now, it seems to me, are not such that it is necessary to strictly distinguish a party faction. Reality compels a search for a broader base. The questions that confront us are very complex, and we need to do more than just go about carrying a flag.... After all, if we say that it is only we who know "what's right," and no one else, it is simply time to leave the political arena. Society is today oriented toward many goals, which frequently differ considerably among themselves, and for this reason a pragmatic approach is greatly needed.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] There are, as we all know, several communist parties here. What are their relations like?

[Kuznetsov] There will be no automatic combination—you may be sure of this. Yes, we are for a union of communist parties, but the decision we adopted was this: Each party with its own rules and its own program may join the union and work in it as if on a confederative basis. But there is no common roof nor will there be....

As far as Novosibirsk is concerned, there are just two serious organizations here: the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and the Russian Communist Workers Party. The Russian Communist Workers Party has its own image, distinct from ours, but this does not prevent us mounting many actions together. As far as the other parties are concerned, we jokingly call them "two-bus parties".... You do not need to be told why, I believe....

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] Your aim is to come to power?

[Kuznetsov] This is the aim of every party. For us it is a strategic prospect. We realize that no one party has a chance of coming to power in today's Russia. And the goal is to create a normal pragmatic opposition which assumes responsibility for the search for the country's escape from the crisis. What is this political accord about which so much is being said today?! It is just another political show, beneath the clamor of which the strict antipopular policy continues. And a change of course could occur only at the demand of a broad coalition of political forces, but not of one party.

[VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK] The final question. Does Gennadiy Zyuganov want to become president?

[Kuznetsov] It is hard to say whether he does or not. But responding to such a question at a recent party forum, Zyuganov said that all our misfortunes are happening because a presidential version of administration of the state has been imposed on Russia. We have already surpassed the world in terms of the number of presidents. We have no need of a presidential federation of republics—it is time to switch to a normal system.

International Affairs

UK's Hurd To Discuss Crimea With President Kravchuk

LD2305125594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The brief meeting between Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in Kiev on Tuesday [24 May] will focus on settlement of the Crimean issue. This was said by Hurd himself in an interview with INTERFAX in Murmansk.

Hurd suggested that this issue must be considered within the scope of development of friendly relations between Great Britain and Ukraine. Hurd recommended that talks on Crimea be held in the presence of the Russian party which could contribute to better understanding between Kiev and Simferopol through its calm and constructive participation. "We hope that both parties are reasonable enough to solve the problem by peaceful methods," Hurd said.

Hurd Arrives in Kiev

LD2405095594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0941 GMT 24 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Demidenko and ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vitaliy Makarchev]

[Text] Kiev, 24 May—Douglas Hurd, Britain's secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in the Ukrainian capital today for a one-day official visit.

He is expected to be received by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and to have meetings with Supreme Council Chairman Aleksandr Moroz, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy, and with other leaders of the Republic.

Ambassador Confirms UK Stance on Crimea Unchanged

LD2305192394 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Ukrainian Parliament leader Oleksandr Moroz received Simon Hemans, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Great Britain. The ambassador informed the Supreme Council chairman of tomorrow's visit to Ukraine by Douglas Hurd, the British secretary of state for foreign affairs, and expressed his request in respect of certain aspects concerning Hurd's meeting with the Ukrainian parliament leader.

Touching upon the Crimean issue in the conversation, Hemans stressed that Great Britain's position on the issue remains unchanged. It recognizes Ukraine as a single integral state and supports the inviolability of its borders.

Christopher Message Supports Government Crimean Stance

WS2305145794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] As has already been reported, in connection with the unconstitutional and illegal decisions by the Crimean Supreme Soviet regarding the peninsula's status, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko sent letters to foreign ministers of other countries and leaders of foreign organizations. The international community, alarmed by a negative development of events possible in the Crimea, voices its unequivocal support for the position expressed in the letter by the Ukrainian foreign minister.

Anatoliy Zlenko today received William Miller, U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, at his request. The American diplomat handed over to Mr. Zlenko a personal message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher which, in particular, noted that the United States recognizes and highly praises Ukraine's responsible and peaceful position on the developments in the Crimea. In response to destabilizing processes in the Crimea, Ukraine acts according to high principles of the CSCE, with which all of us seek to comply. Any other actions could lead to confrontation, which would not suit the interests of all sides. The United States, the message emphasized, supports the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine in its present borders. The United States seeks to expand and deepen relations with Ukraine, and would like to move forward quickly in assisting Ukraine through economic incentive programs that would be useful for the whole country, including the Crimea.

German Foreign Minister Voices Support for Kiev Over Crimea

LD2305193994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 23 May 94

[No video available]

[Text] The German Foreign Affairs Ministry has circulated a statement by Foreign Affairs Minister Klaus Kinkel. It stresses that the Federal Government is watching the recent developments in Crimea with concern. Ukraine's territorial integrity and independence that are necessary for stability and peaceful relations in Europe cannot be called into doubt, the statement emphasizes. The German Federal Government hopes that all interested political forces are aware of the importance of principled obligations within the CSCE, and the unconditional need for joint action in accordance with these obligations.

Moldovan Official Meets Envoy, Voices Support on Crimea

WS2405082194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] On 24 May, Ukrainian Ambassador to Moldova Vitaliy Boyko met Moldova's Deputy Foreign Minister (Osmochescu) and handed him a letter from the Ukrainian foreign minister on Ukraine's stance regarding the Crimean issue. The minister pointed out that Moldova, which has suffered from the policy of separatism, fully realizes the threat posed by the actions of Crimean power structures; entirely supports the Ukrainian leadership, denounces separatism, and supports Ukraine's unconditional territorial integrity. Mr. (Osmochescu) assured the ambassador that the Moldovan leadership would support Ukraine's position with regard to denouncing separatism at all levels, both within the CIS borders and in the international arena.

Kiev Did Not Suggest UN Discussion on Crimea

LD2305192994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1811 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Ukraine has not suggested a UN discussion of the Crimean question. This was reported on Monday [23 May] to INTERFAX-Ukraine by the head of the information department of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Yuriy Sergeyev.

Commenting on the statement of a political advisor of the Russian foreign minister Galina Sidorova that Ukraine wishes the Crimean question to be discussed at the UN, Sergeyev expressed surprise at how she could have come to such a conclusion.

He stressed that the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko in a letter to the heads of state and leaders of international organizations only drew the attention of the world public to the complexity of the situation in Crimea.

Shmarov Views Military Conversion Program, U.S. Aid

WS2305125594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] By 30 May, U.S. strategic and ballistic missiles will no longer be targeted at Ukraine. As a reminder, this decision was reached at the Ukrainian-U.S. negotiations in Washington on 11-14 May 1994. In those days, the Ukrainian Government delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov discussed with the American side a wide range of issues related to nonproliferation of missile systems carrying mass destruction weapons, development of the trilateral process in the sphere of nuclear disarmament, and mutual cooperation in rocket and space industry, etc. Our correspondent, Viktor Bak, interviewed Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov.

[Begin recording] [Bak] During your visit to the United States, the delegation that you headed also discussed the issue of cooperation in the sphere of conversion.

[Shmarov] You know that the Ukrainian Government and the U.S. Administration set up a joint conversion commission. On the American side, it is headed by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, and on the Ukrainian side, by Machine Building Minister Chernenko. This commission has been quite busy (?since last fall). The commission has pinpointed about 30 projects. We examined those projects together with the United States. At present, interested partners are being sought. What are these partners for? First, the United States does not have sufficient funds to finance this program—a small amount was earmarked for the conversion. We seek to attract the private capital of American entrepreneurs and companies. In practical terms, selection of partners and signing of projects will probably be carried out in July. We have determined the terms for one pilot project, which is a joint venture of the well-known U.S. company Westinghouse and Ukraine's Hartron. Hartron is an enterprise that was oriented toward developing rocket industry products, currently subject to the conversion plan. So, we envision that it would be engaged in developing safety and control systems for nuclear power plants. As you know, this is a major problem for us today. This project has been signed. The U.S. Government allocated $5 million for this project, while Westinghouse designated $20 million [words indistinct], and we offer our production and scientific resources. I think that this project will assume realistic [word indistinct]. [end recording]

FRY Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses Bilateral Relations

LD2305175294 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Radomir Bogdanovic, deputy foreign minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY], arrived in Ukraine today on a working visit. He said that during the talks the sides exchanged views on the development of Ukrainian-Yugoslav relations and priorities in the two state's foreign policy efforts. They also discussed topical issues concerning the Yugoslav crisis.

He added that Yugoslav people highly appreciated Ukraine's efforts to alleviate the situation in Yugoslavia.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Says World Supports Kiev on Crimea Issue

LD2305161294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Nikolayev Oblast—On 22 May, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk made a working trip to the town of Pervomaysk, during the course of which he was at a [Ukrainian poet] Shevchenko festival, which took place

under the name: "In a Free and New Family." After it had ended, Kravchuk replied to questions from journalists.

Speaking about the actions of Crimea's parliament, which has renewed the text of the Republic of Crimea's Constitution in its 6 May 1992 edition (in particular it is about mutual relations between Crimea and Ukraine on the basis of treaties and agreements, dual citizenship, and setting up military formations on the peninsula's territory), Ukraine's president noted that the appeal by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko to the world community condemning the position of the Crimean deputies had received the support of many international organizations.

The head of the Ukrainian state assesses the "Ostankino" Television Company's portrayal of the events on the Crimean peninsula as the conscious incitement of people to confrontation.

Replying to a question regarding the work of Ukraine's Supreme Council, Kravchuk emphasized that the beginning was more optimistic than the further work of the parliament. "Although when we were discussing the Crimea issue in the Supreme Council I saw that the majority of deputies had a responsible attitude to the Crimean problem." In the opinion of Ukraine's president, life will put everything in its place and parliament will occupy the proper statesmanlike position.

Kravchuk observed that he had not changed his views on the presidential election. In this, in particular, he is supported by the leadership of Nikolayev and its oblast. "In order to elect a president it is necessary to create a legal basis for power. Incidentally, Crimea is a vivid confirmation of this. Crimea got autonomy in 1990, but the law on the delimitation of powers was adopted two years later. In this time the legal vacuum was filled, which led to a situation where the accumulated political and legal problems may be resolved only by returning to a starting position."

To a question regarding the truth about our state being pushed "from below" toward a federative system, the president said that in order to elaborate federative laws one should have a professional parliament and work every day for three years.

Kravchuk Sets Terms for Crimean Settlement

LD2305161994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 23 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The Crimean issue can be resolved only if Ukraine's integrity and the territory's status remain unchanged, President Leonid Kravchuk said speaking on the eve of a meeting between Ukrainian and Crimean legislators in Kiev on Tuesday. He hopes for comprise to be achieved.

Ukraine's statehood and integrity is the drawing line which no one including Crimea is allowed to cross, Kravchuk said.

He called for a status quo that existed before last Friday when the Crimean parliament passed a resolution to restore the republic's constitution of May 6, 1992 which provides for greater regional autonomy and dual citizenship to the Crimeans. IF Note: On the same day, the Ukrainian parliament vetoed down the decision by Crimean legislators who had in turn suspended Kiev's resolution a day after.

For his own part, Kravchuk said Kiev's decision would automatically become null and void as soon as the Crimean parliament suspended its resolution of May 20.

The Crimean delegation flying out to Kiev on Tuesday wants three main issues to be put on the agenda of talks there—dual citizenship, economic and financial matters (a banking union between Crimea and Russia) and armed forces, one source close to the Crimean parliament told Interfax.

He said that although Simferopol did not bank on a complete breakthrough in the talks, it was sending a delegation to Kiev to avoid further confrontation and build up bridges with Ukraine.

In the meantime, Speaker of the Crimean Parliament Sergey Tsekov is convinced that the Supreme Soviet had to restore the 1992 constitution as the only and softest option for regulating Simferopol's relations with Ukraine.

He admitted that the ruling Russia alliance's final goal was to gain independence from Ukraine and unify with Russia. Tsekov does not rule out the possibility of reunification with Russia together with Ukraine.

Tsekov hopes that more sensible Ukrainian leaders will not allow a souring of relations with Crimea.

Asked if the Crimean parliament had gone a bit too far in its demands for greater autonomy, Kravchuk said it would have to toe the line. IF Note: Chief presidential advisor for domestic policies Nikolay Mikhalchenko said Kravchuk may ask parliament for appropriate powers to ensure the country's sovereignty and integrity as guarantor of the constitution if Simferopol failed to rescind its decision. However, he declined to say whether this meant the imposition of presidential rule or declaration of a state of emergency in Crimea.

Kravchuk said that Kiev's position outlined by Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko's appeal to other countries "has found full understanding throughout the world". This also includes Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev whom he quoted as saying recently that "Russia will never raise the question of Ukraine's integrity".

Kravchuk said the country's integrity was laid down in a bilateral agreement between Kiev and Moscow as well as a joint statement signed by the presidents of Russia, Ukraine and U.S.

Russian and Ukrainian Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Yefim Zvyagilsky meet in Moscow on Monday to discuss the situation around Crimea and how to defuse tension between Kiev and Simferopol. The meeting follows last Friday's telephone conversation between Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev says that the talks in Moscow must focus on respect for human rights (above all, the right to a peaceful life) as well as for seif-determination but with understanding that "Crimea is a sovereign republic within Ukraine". IF Note: Yeltsin spoke of receiving assurances from the Ukrainian leader during last Friday's telephone conversation that Kiev would refrain from using force to try to resolve the dispute.

But a senior member of Kravchuk's office in an interview with Interfax criticized Yeltsin's statement.

He said that "Ukraine is an independent state and the methods it chooses to use for resolving internal conflicts depend exclusively on the will of its people and parliament. Undoubtedly, these will be in line with the Ukrainian constitution and laws. Ukraine will always go by international law".

The official spoke of being surprised at Yeltsin's statement saying that "it is important that neither Russia nor Ukraine meddle in Crimean affairs". He said that one may well infer that Russia wanted the same status in relations with Crimea as Ukraine of which Crimea was part.

Some reports say Prime Minister Zvyagilsky may meet the Russian leader if he and his Russian counterpart Viktor Chernomyrdin have made a breakthrough in Monday's talks in Moscow.

Kravchuk Warns Crimea: No Change of Status

LD2305203594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 23 May 94

[Excerpts] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has paid a working visit to the town of Pervomaysk in Nikolayev Oblast. Our correspondent Vitaliy Naumenko, reports. [passage omitted]

[Naumenko] Considering the large number of complex problems facing the Ukrainian people today that demand urgent solutions, the president of Ukraine had to answer many questions.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Leonid Makarovych, a question from Ukrainian Radio. I would not like to talk about serious issues on this festive day, but obviously everyone's thoughts today go to Crimea. How will you comment on the further course of developments?

[Kravchuk] We made this decision: As soon as the Crimean Parliament revokes the law it passed, the Supreme Council will also suspend its' resolution. Thus, it is all up to the Supreme Council of Crimea. Once it revokes the law, the Supreme Council of Ukraine will revoke its respective resolution.

I hope that the delegation formed by the Supreme Council of Crimea will arrive in Kiev and, I hope, we will find a solution, but the solution must go one way: No change in the status, no change in Ukraine's territorial integrity. Within the framework of this process, the process of finding mutual understanding, there should be no change in status and territorial integrity. If this is taken as a point of reference, we will find any, I stress, any solution. But integrity and statehood is the bottom line, which nobody is allowed to cross. [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Do you think the Crimean Parliament has gone too far in its claims against Ukraine's territorial integrity?

[Kravchuk] I think, wherever it has gone it will return. Because such will be the necessary legal action taken by Ukraine, and not only Ukraine. I am informed that our foreign minister has addressed the world, explaining our stance, and that our stance has been met with full support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and inviolability of borders. The world has recognized Ukraine, recognized our right and our stance. Incidentally, this is confirmed by the foreign minister [words indistinct]. Russia is not disputing the issue of our territorial integrity. This is understandable—that it cannot dispute what has been recognized by the entire world and endorsed in the treaty between Russia and Ukraine of 1990, and in the trilateral agreement signed in Moscow by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia.

[Correspondent] Do you think that, unfortunately, our colleagues, journalists from Ostankino television company, are being somewhat aggressive in their constant...I don't even know what to call it....

[Kravchuk] I hope we don't have to pay attention to Ostankino, and this would be our best step; but despite its being so, I don't know what to call it [word indistinct] is being worked up. Also, by the way, if one is to blame someone for something, I don't want to generalize, then one must recall the coverage of the Transdniester events, the coverage of the (Karabakh) events, the coverage of the events in Georgia, Abkhazia, and now even in Ukraine and Crimea, all this coverage can be described as one thing: Conscious instigation of confrontation between the people. If this is the goal of Ostankino or of those behind it, this goal may be reached in Ostankino's view, but not in the view of the people who do not believe it, who, I am sure, have stopped believing these untruths. [end recording]

Meshkov: Stable Relations With Kiev 'Out of Question'

LD2305193294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1811 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The President of Crimea Yuriy Meshkov said on local television on Monday that any stabilization of relations between Crimea and Ukraine is out of the question as long as the political aggression by Kiev continues.

Speaking of the Tuesday [24 May] meeting of the parliamentary delegations of Ukraine and Crimea in Kiev he voiced hope for its fruitfulness. Unlike the executive branch of power, Meshkov said, the Ukrainian parliament has not taken steps violating the constitution.

Answering a question about the most favorable and the most unfavorable course of developments the president said:"The most favorable forecast is that we will resolve our problems over the holiday season, the most unfavorable—the refusal of Russia to be involved in the settlement of the Crimean problem."

At the same time he said that the last option is so improbable that there is no need to worry.

Answering a question about the possible reaction of the Crimean administration to the use of force by Kiev Meshkov said the steps of the Crimean leadership are clearly regulated by the Crimean Constitution and laws.

Arrival of APC's in Simferopol Said Coincidental

LD2305182994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] According to the press service of the Crimean Ministry of Internal Affairs, 29 APCs arrived on Sunday at Simferopol train station. After unloading, the APCs headed for the territory of the Simferopol military school, escorted by Crimean highway inspection officers.

Colonel Oleksandr Kostyukov, commander of the National Guard brigade, confirmed in an interview for UKRINFORM that the APC's did arrive. He said: However, they are not for the military school but for our subunits. Their arrival accidentally coincided with the developments in the wake of the decision by the Crimean Supreme Council session to restore the Constitution of 6 May 1993. In reality, it was part of a scheduled process of equipping the brigade.

Crimean Speaker Optimistic About Talks With Ukrainians

LD2305154694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 23 May 94

[Report over video by correspondent Vladimir Plotnikov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting between an official delegation of the Crimean Supreme Soviet and Ukrainian parliamentarians took place in Simferopol today. It was held behind closed doors. Supreme Soviet Chairman Sergey Tsekov expressed hope that the two sides will reach mutual understanding and will be prepared to make sensible compromises. They will discuss Ukraine's recognition of the restored Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992 and the appointment of ministers of internal affairs and justice.

Medzhlis Calls for Tatars To Comply With Ukraine Law

WS2305111794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The political situation in the Crimea has been discussed at a meeting held by the medzhlis of the Crimean Tatars in Simferopol. A resolution was adopted on the threat of an armed conflict in the Crimea. The resolution points out the illegal nature of recent edicts issued by the Crimean president and Supreme Soviet that are worsening the political situation. Due to this, the resolution said, all national representative institutions of the Crimean Tatars should comply with the norms of international law, the Ukrainian Constitution and its laws, and the decisions by the kurultay and the medzhlis of the Crimean Tatars. All necessary measures have to be taken to prevent our countrymen from getting embroiled in a standoff with the Ukrainian state, the resolution by the medzhlis of the Crimean Tatars stated.

Tatars Say Crimean Decrees Unlawful

LD2305103994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The political situation in Crimea was discussed during a meeting of the Crimean Tatar people's mejlis, which took place in Simferopol. A resolution in connection with the danger of an armed conflict arising in Crimea was adopted. It speaks of the unlawfulness of the latest decrees by the Crimean president and Supreme Council which led to the political situation becoming more complicated. In this connection, the resolution says, all bodies in the system of national representation of the Crimean Tatars, should be guided by the norms of international law, the constitution, the laws of Ukraine, and the decisions of the kurultay of the Crimean Tatar people's mejlis. All the necessary measures not to let compatriots be drawn into resistance against the Ukrainian state should be taken, says the resolution of the Crimean Tatar people's mejlis.

Kiev Urges Simferopol To Cancel Decision on Crimean Police

LD2305193894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1811 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Interior Ministry has called on the Crimean leadership to reconsider its decision to transfer

local law-enforcement bodies to Crimean jurisdiction. According to a statement of the ministry collegium distributed Monday [23 May], Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov "exceeded his powers and actively interfered in the activities of the law-enforcement bodies."

"Yuriy Meshkov's decree to remove A. Plyuta as Crimean interior minister and appoint Valeriy Kuznetsov as acting minister was made unilaterally, without coordination with the Ukrainian Interior Ministry, breaching the Ukrainian Constitution and the law on power-sharing between state power bodies of Ukraine and the Crimean Republic," the document stated.

According to the Ukrainian Interior Ministry, "a destabilization of the general situation can be seen in Crimea, the number of serious crimes, often with the use of firearms continues to grow." In the meantime, Crimean police units are used to guard radio and television broadcasting installations allegedly planned to be seized by Kiev instead of preventing and investigating crimes, the document said.

The authors of the statement assess Kuznetsov's actions to ensure the safety of people as "unprofessional and inadequate considering the criminal situation in Crimea." The Ukrainian Interior Ministry collegium put all responsibility for what is going on in Crimea and its unpredictable consequences on Kuznetsov and those forces, which created the conditions for this situation.

No Comment From Chief Negotiator on Kiev's Stand on Crimea

LD2305192794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1811 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] On Monday [23 May] the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation to the talks with the Crimean parliament held a session in private in Kiev. The head of the delegation Boris Oleynik refused to disclose the approach of Kiev to the negotiations. "I have gone through 25 different conflicts and know what these comments lead to," he told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

Oleynik, a prominent poet, before the collapse of the Soviet Union was deputy chairman of the House of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

He said he also banned commentaries on the situation by all members of his delegation. So far it is only known that the final list of delegates will be announced late on Monday evening.

The Crimean delegation is expected to arrive in Kiev at about 1100 on Tuesday. The same day it intends to return to Simferopol.

Talks on Crimea Begin in Kiev

LD2405095294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 24 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 24 May TASS—Matters aimed at settling Ukraine's relations with its constituent—the Republic of the Crimea—are expected to become the subject of talks which began here on Tuesday [24 May] between Ukrainian and Crimean delegations which are headed, respectively, by People's Deputy Boris Oleinik and by parliament chief Sergey Tsekov.

The talks are being held behind closed doors.

Crimea Tense But Calm; Ukrainian Reinforcements Arrive

LD2405083194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] The situation in Crimea is largely calm, RIA was told by (Petr Chernichevich), an advisor to the Crimean president on military issues. However, he said that some tension could nevertheless be sensed, caused by the unpredictability of the Ukrainian authorities' next moves.

Reinforcements are constantly arriving at the Ukrainian National Guard units in Simferopol and Sevastopol. The number of guards has already reached 2,000, consisting mainly of men from western Ukraine who arrived in Simferopol on Sunday. They have also received 29 armored personnel carriers, according to Chernichevich.

All important sites in the Crimean capital remain under the strict guard of interior troop units loyal to the Crimean Government, and the city's streets are being patrolled by Crimean Cossacks.

Crimean Communist Leader: 1992 Constitution 'Inappropriate'

LD2305083094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Simferopol, 22 May—Leonid Hrach, first secretary of the Crimean Communist Party Central Committee, secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and deputy to the Crimean Supreme Council in a multiseat district, gave a news conference. He informed journalists that the Crimean Communist Party Central Committee issued a statement which calls renewal of the Republic of Crimea's 6 May 1992 Constitution "inappropriate to the present time and allows dishonorable leaders in Ukraine, Crimea, and Russia to inflame interethnic hostility and a bloody conflict."

Leonid Hrach noted at the news conference that the Crimean Communist Party is ready to cooperate with any political forces in order to unite efforts against inflaming conflicts and to speak out in favor of civic

peace and interethnic accord. According to Leonid Hrach, the actions of Crimea's Supreme Council in adopting the first version of the 6 May 1992 Constitution and suspending the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution revoking the Republic of Crimea's resolution renewing the constitutional basis of the Republic of Crimea's statehood, are criminal.

Crimea Seen on Verge of Armed Conflict

MK2105134094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 May 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Golts, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer, commentary under the general heading: "Crimea: Up Along a Conflict Spiral. Will Politicians Stop at the Line of Danger?"]

[Text] Reports about troops being deployed and moved up... Attempts to seize and to resubordinate power agencies and government authorities... Finally, menacing statements and their refutations, a growing snowball of mutual accusations. Later, when the irremediable happens, they will all claim that no one wanted bloodshed and all struggled for sovereignty...

The situation that is coming about in Crimea appears very complex. I would like to believe that the worst forecasts will not come true, that the latest contacts between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents will help ease the tension. However, anyone who can recall how conflicts flared up in various independent state states on the territory of the former USSR cannot but be alerted by the degree to which the situation in Crimea is reminiscent of what preceded bloody and lengthy wars in Karabakh, Abkhazia, and the Dniester Region.

This is a perfectly familiar scenario. It is beginning to unfold each time the legislatures of various autonomous entities decide to stop obeying the center's commands. As a rule, this happens against the backdrop of overall political instability in the state as a whole. And each time it plays into the hands of a politician who defends his power in a fierce struggle. He sends troops and special-purpose units, starts threatening the "separatists" with force.

All this ends similarly—in blood. One cannot but ask: Are all those who call themselves leaders really so out if it that they are unable to make balanced, reasonable decisions (as a matter of fact, there is one precedent, albeit a unique one, where Moscow was wise enough not to forcibly impose its authority on Chechnya)?

I think that the reason lies elsewhere: They simply think that they can always fall back, stop at the line of danger after upping the ante as much as possible and hitting the jackpot. One always has the feeling that those who tried to take a similar gamble in Abkhazia, Karabakh, and the Dniester Region were simply not slick or lucky enough to succeed. And this is the main mistake. The thing is that politicians are not starting a boxing match that can be stopped any minute. They set in motion large masses of armed people whose nerves are strained to the limit. And they simply fail some people. A minor bureaucrat, misunderstanding a command, wholeheartedly rushes to carry it out; an armored personnel carrier or simply an office car might run over a casual passer-by, or a live cartridge might be carelessly put in the chamber of someone's automatic rifle.

Such accidents have long become a rule in "hot spots." Whenever they occur, conflicts begin to escalate by themselves, an escalation that cannot be stopped by anyone. Moreover, if a conflict flares up in Crimea, all we have seen earlier will pale in scale alongside it. The reason is that the Black Sea Fleet, which has never been split, will undoubtedly be drawn into it.

This threshold has not been crossed yet. We ought to do our utmost to prevent this from happening.

Nationalists Demand Annulment of Crimean Autonomy

LD2105111694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists believes the Ukrainian president and Supreme Council should introduce presidential rule in Crimea and repeal its autonomous status. This was said in a statement the congress made regarding the latest developments in Crimea. The document stresses that the Crimean Supreme Council's decision to restore the autonomy's constitution in its original version represents disregard for the fundamental law of Ukraine and international agreements on the inviolability of the borders and territorial integrity of states. The statement's authors describe these actions as criminal in respect of the Ukrainian people and state.

The Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists also demands that the registration in Crimea of political parties, which perform anti-Ukrainian activity, should be discontinued, separatism ended, and calm and peaceful work guaranteed for the peninsula's citizens.

Crimean National Guard Forces 'Continuing To Grow'

PM2305184194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Vladimir Pasyakin, Sergey Prokopenko, and Anatoliy Polyakov: "Clear Weather in the Crimea for Now, But the Barometer Is Inclining Toward the 'Storm' Mark. Politics Is Not A Weather Forecast. There Must Be No Mistake"]

[Excerpt] The situation in the Crimea remains rather complex. Let us recall that the political situation here has exacerbated in recent days in connection with the adoption by the Republic of Crimea parliament of a law on the restoration of the Crimean Constitution of 6 May

1992, which provides for great autonomy for the peninsula in relations with Ukraine. This step has been assessed in official Kiev as separatism and a threat to Ukraine's territorial integrity. A number of pretty hard-hitting statements ensued. A "war of edicts" has begun, whereby Kiev revokes the Crimean Supreme Council's decisions and the Crimean parliamentarians react "appropriately" to Kiev's decisions.

On the morning of 23 May General Major Valeriy Kuznetsov, minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Crimea, commented on the situation for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA as follows:

"The outward situation is calm, but people are tense in view of the ambiguity of the situation. What is needed is for everything to be decided at a political level, for us, a power structure, not to get dragged into political squabbles, and for the opinion of the people to be heeded, including that of officers of the internal affairs organs. The national guard's forces are continuing to grow in the Crimea."

It has become known that at 2300 hours on 22 May, 12 railroad flatcars arrived in Simferopol carrying 29 Ukrainian Army armored personnel carriers. The armored vehicles were dispersed in various parts of the city. A report to this effect was made by Petr Chernyatevich, the Crimean president's adviser on military questions.

In his words, on the same day yet another attempt was made to get into the Crimean MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] building by a group of Ukrainian MVD officers who, according to the directive of their minister, had been appointed to various leading posts in place of their Crimean colleagues. However, the building's guards prevented this. [passage omitted]

Talks on Crimea To Continue 24 May; Kiev Withholds Credits

MK2405071494 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 May 94 p 1

[SEGODNYA report under the "Peninsula" rubric followed by Viktor Yadukha report from Simferopol with the general heading: "Russian, Ukrainian Heads of Government Wait for Yevgeniy Saburov. Russia Ready To Discuss Crimean Issue at the UN"]

[Text] Russia's head of government, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and his first deputy, Oleg Soskovets, proposed to Ukrainian acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilskiy that talks on the Black Sea Fleet and the status of Crimea be continued today. Earlier it was expected that the talks would end on Monday [23 May]. However, according to information received by SEGODNYA, the need arose during the meeting for Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov to attend the talks; yesterday afternoon he flew to Moscow.

On Monday, Mr. Chernomyrdin suggested during the meeting that his Ukrainian counterpart himself outline the range of problems to be discussed. Yefim Zvyagilskiy named as two priority matters the split of the Black Sea Fleet and the basing of the Russian part of the fleet. The official talks were preceded by a one-hour private meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian prime ministers.

Russia "does not object" to a consideration of the Crimean issue by the United Nations, Galina Sidorova, political adviser to the Russian Foreign Minister, said after Mr. Kozyrev's meeting with his British counterpart, Douglas Hurd. Meanwhile, presidential chief of staff Sergey Filatov told ITAR-TASS that "the ratcheting up of tensions in Crimea is advantageous only to irresponsible politicians in Ukraine who would like to exploit an emergency situation in the region to postpone presidential elections and to hold on to power."

* * *

Yevgeniy Saburov, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Crimea, said in a conversation with your SEGODNYA correspondent that at a time of inflation Kiev has given "yet another batch of newly printed money" to all regions except Crimea. This amounts to an economic blockade, which began after they stopped giving credits for the peninsula's agriculture. "It seems natural to us that Russia, not an overseas power, should assume the function of a mediator," he emphasized.

In the meantime, a pro-Kiev organization, the Civil Council of Crimea, which calls itself an opposition parliament, held a constituent conference in Crimea while talks were under way in Russia. The council's constituent documents say that "groups of citizens will select persons loyal to Ukraine from among members of political organizations." The opposition parliament plans "to counter separatism and to take efforts to protect and uphold the status of Crimea as part of Ukraine."

New Parliamentary Speaker Profiled

MK2105084494 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 94 p 3

[Vitaliy Portnikov report in the "Ukraine" column: "Will Aleksandr Moroz Become a 'Ukrainian Rybkin'? Victory by the Socialist Leader Has Been Forecast"]

[Text] Observers in Kiev increasingly tend to compare Aleksandr Moroz, newly elected Supreme Soviet chairman, to Russian State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin: evolution, they imply, is inevitable, and the political transformation that has occurred with the State Duma chairman will also happen to the Ukraine parliament speaker. Especially since their political backgrounds are so similar: neither Moroz nor Rybkin succeeded in the upper echelons of the old party nomenklatura, and both became leaders of left forces when their former leaders, who had top-level approval, grew disillusioned with

these forces. The Moroz case is especially indicative: he entered big-time politics when it began to seem to party leaders that a "grassroots" deputy was needed to play the role of a party faction organizer while the real orchestrators were to stay in the shadows, but after the Ukraine Communist Party was banned, the former majority leader not only did not sit in the shadows but launched vigorous efforts to rescue the left forces which at the time appeared marginal: this was how the Ukraine Socialist Party emerged which appeared to be communist until a real Ukraine Communist Party came along.

Both during the years of his leadership in the notorious "Group of 239" and after the emergence of the Socialist Party Aleksandr Moroz really showed himself as a fairly flexible, open-minded and often pragmatic politician: as is known, when a person is elected to a high post, such qualities only grow. Moroz, however, is a representative of a small faction, owing his success primarily to support from communists. Still the lineup of forces in the Ukraine Supreme Soviet is unlike in Russia's, and Ivan Rybkin has considerably more room for maneuver than Aleksandr Moroz. Especially since an argument in favor of Rybkin's flexibility is a strong president. And what is the argument in favor of Moroz' flexibility? Presidential elections?

The very first days of the new parliament showed that Aleksandr Moroz will have to repay the debts to the strongest faction in the Supreme Soviet. When he was already enjoying the position of a virtual head of parliament, presiding over its session which discussed the fate of deputies elected in uncontested constituencies, Moroz behaved rather tactlessly, in a partisan manner, with respect to a leader in the Interregional Reforms Bloc, Vladimir Grinev, and yet another deputy from the non-left camp, Pavel Kudyukin. A new scandal emerged after Moroz was elected Supreme Council chairman: the opposition wrecked the session, apparently fearing that Communist Party representatives would be elected deputy speakers.

The realignment of forces in the new Supreme Council is strikingly reminiscent of the situation that existed in the first days of the old, still very Soviet, parliament: the left can do everything but the opposition can thwart a session. Therefore agreement will have to be reached with it. However the aggravated situation around Crimea and the need to resolve the fate of the upcoming 26 presidential elections, whose cancellation is so actively sought by Leonid Kravchuk, could prevent the opposition from boycotting parliament indefinitely. Agreement may have to reached immediately, in haste, and only temporarily: that is, of course, unless Aleksandr Moroz transforms into an Ivan Rybkin faster that the parliamentary balance of forces allows him to.

Tsekov Views Ukraine, Russia Relations

944K1256A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 94 p 1

[N. Gavrileva report on news conference given by Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea; place and date not given: "We Are Working Without Fanfare"]

[Text] The corps of journalists of Crimea welcomes the endeavor of Sergey Tsekov, the new chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea, to continue the former tradition of holding a news conference following the completion of a stage of work of the Supreme Soviet. Sergey Pavlovich held his first important meeting with journalists during a lengthy break in the work of the first session, when it had become possible to speak about the fully formed leadership of the Crimean parliament.

Work of Parliament

[Question] Please assess the three days of business of the session.

[Tsekov] I believe that the Supreme Soviet spent them entirely productively, the plan which had been mapped out by the action committee was fulfilled, the leadership elected, and the presidium formed—all without undue shouting and clamor, calmly, and in balanced fashion. I evaluate the makeup of the commissions positively also; the professional level of the deputies is quite high, and they are ready for work.

[Question] When will the session continue?

[Tsekov] The plenary sitting will open on 20 May; work in the commissions is under way at this time.

[Question] What will be predominant in parliament's work—party or factional discipline?

[Tsekov] I believe that factional discipline will prevail.

[Question] How do you plan to establish relations with the kurultay faction following the well-known incident at the session?

[Tsekov] They will be built as they were built before: on the basis of mutual respect. [Word illegible] misunderstanding of my position as chairman. I would like the Crimean Tatar deputies to understand that I was in a very difficult situation as regards the candidates for chairman of the Commission for Nationality Policy and the Affairs of Deported Citizens. It was this that dictated the proposal that I made. And we made the right decision in postponing the elections until 20 May—I hope that the kurultay delegation will have returned from Kiev by that time.

[Question] What do you think, which group or faction of deputies has been the best prepared for work in parliament?

[Tsekov] As the experience of the three days of work has shown—the Russia faction. And, of course, the kurultay faction also is prepared for serious parliamentary work.

[Question] A record was set—one deputy went to the microphone 51 times. What do you intend doing to ensure that garrulous deputies not grab so much time for themselves?

[Tsekov] We are required to observe the standing orders, and if they permit a deputy to take the floor either 50 or

100 times, this is a problem for the deputy, not the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and not the Supreme Soviet as a whole. It is possible that the Supreme Soviet will amend the standing orders accordingly. But the situation should not be dramatized.

Crimea and Ukraine

[Question] What advantages would treaty relations with Ukraine convey, in what way would this be better than the Law on the Delineation of Powers?

[Tsekov] The economic situation in Crimea is wholly dependent on Ukraine because we are located in a single economic field. And mistakes that are made by the Ukrainian leadership are manifested most directly in Crimea, in a worse version even sometimes. Were a treaty to be signed, it would be easier for us to implement the right economic transformations. I could outline for you the first possibility of an improvement in the economic situation: the demilitarization of Crimea. In addition, we would remove the barriers between states, primarily with Russia....

[Question] Your future steps for filling the state sovereignty of Crimea?

[Tsekov] These steps are clearly identified in the program of the Russia bloc: restoration of the constitution of 6 May 1992 and the formation of a delegation to Kiev in order to persuade the leadership of Ukraine of the need to build relations with Crimea on a treaty basis.

[Question] What is the attitude of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea toward the impending elections of the president of Ukraine? Will Crimeans take part?

[Tsekov] I was unable in these three days to ascertain the Supreme Soviet's attitude toward this problem, it is not a question to be discussed there, although I do not rule out this possibility. The attitude of the majority of political parties, however, is unequivocal: Crimeans should not take part in the elections.

[Question] Do you consider it normal that the Supreme Soviet of Crimea is without the representation of Ukrainian organizations and Ukrainians in general?

[Tsekov] I cannot agree because the Russia bloc did not promote candidates on a national basis. And seven representatives of Ukrainian nationality were elected to the Crimean parliament.

[Question] Numerous demonstrations demanding the annulment of Crimean autonomy are taking place in Kiev. What if this were actually to happen—what might the steps of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea be?

[Tsekov] I cannot even imagine this, to be honest. This is practically impossible. Theoretically, yes, but we have in the past four years amassed sufficient experience, and among Ukrainian politicians there have come to be people who are perfectly sober-minded and who understand the Crimea situation—they understand what drastic action on the part of the Ukrainian leadership could signify: It would mean not only the complete detachment of Crimea from Ukraine but also the breakup of Ukraine itself. Our actions? We would not agree with such a decision, of course, and would take the appropriate steps, together with the president, naturally.

[Question] The Ukrainian and Russian press believe that the present composition of the Ukrainian parliament will adopt a tougher position in respect to Crimea. Do you share this viewpoint? How will you build your relations with the Ukrainian parliament?

[Tsekov] I believe that the attitude toward Crimea from the toughness viewpoint will change and that the situation will ease. I was a people's deputy of Ukraine for four years and I know how we were viewed by the national democrats initially: unequivocal rejection of the statehood of Crimea and all that was happening in Crimea. But two or three years have gone by, and many of them have already begun to say that there is a Crimea problem and that it needs to be resolved on the basis of political dialogue and that Crimea should be given as much authority as possible. The same will be the case with the present Supreme Council of Ukraine also.

Crimea-Russia-Ukraine

[Question] Your vision of relations with Russia and Ukraine?

[Tsekov] These are big questions, and we have answered them repeatedly. Mutual relations should be built on a treaty basis—with both Russia and Ukraine.

[Question] How do you conceive of a treaty with Ukraine—what should it include?

[Tsekov] Any treaty may be of three types—economic, political, and military-political. I would want a treaty between Ukraine and Crimea to be a treaty of equals. I do not rule out a military- political treaty with Russia being concluded together with Ukraine and I hope that Ukraine will ultimately, after a certain length of time, arrive at an understanding of integration.

Sevastopol

[Question] There is talk to the effect that the question of the transfer of the capital of Crimea to Sevastopol could be in the offing....

[Tsekov] This is not our suggestion, it came, as far as I know, from the Crimea Economic Revival Party. The reasoning is that the question of Sevastopol's integration in Crimea could be solved quite gently in this case. A paradoxical situation has taken shape: Sevastopol is an inalienable part of Crimea, but the organs of state power are not formed according to legislation of Crimea, although, in accordance with all legislative instruments, of Ukraine included, the authority is ours. Were we to solve this question, there could, consequently, be no question of a transfer. If not, transfer of the capital could be assumed to be an option.

[Question] Do you consider the administrative association of Sevastopol and Crimea essential, and if this is realistic, in what kind of timeframe?

[Tsekov] Of course, Sevastopol is an inalienable part of Crimea, they must be together. The timeframe is a difficult matter. But work on this needs to be started at once.

Military Matters

[Question] You are a supporter of a gradual demilitarization of Crimea. How will this process take place? What is the size of the forces?

[Tsekov] You know well enough the program of the Crimea Republican Party and the Russia bloc—it speaks of the need for military reform and says what is implied by this specifically: phased demilitarization of Crimea with the retention of a contingent of troops of reasonable sufficiency; territorial defense of Crimea within the framework of CIS collective security; the creation of a republican guard of Crimea for defense of the constitutional system of the Republic of Crimea and public safety.

Various figures for the size of the forces are cited—60,000, 40,000, even 80,000—but I do not know the true size.

[Question] The Supreme Soviet has a Commission for Military Matters, Security, and Servicemen's Protection, and representatives of the Russia bloc constitute its majority. There are servicemen of both Russia and Ukraine in Crimea. Which servicemen's rights will this commission protect?

[Tsekov] I understand it to be a question of the rights of all servicemen stationed on the territory of Crimea.

Party and Speaker

[Question] Do you intend combining the offices of chairman of the Supreme Soviet and party chairman?

[Tsekov] I do not at this moment consider that I have to quit the post of party chairman—as you know, the law permits this. If the congress considers otherwise, I am prepared to comply with this decision. But just as I was a member of the Crimea Republican Party, I would remain a Republican.

[Question] Who is today the ideologist of the Crimea Republican Party after the previous ideologist has declared his opposition?

[Tsekov] The Crimea Republican Party had several ideologists—one was the president of Crimea, a second suspended his party membership, a third was to some extent myself, a fourth—V. Terekhov—is continuing his work.

The Supreme Soviet and the Executive

[Question] Many edicts of the president of Crimea are not in effect today. What will the steps of the Supreme Soviet be?

[Tsekov] I am inclined to believe that we should confirm these edicts and thus help the president in their realization.

[Question] Will you be changing the structure of the government in accordance with the structure of the Supreme Soviet?

[Tsekov] Questions connected with the formation of the government are within the competence of the Supreme Soviet. I said at the session that it is necessary first and foremost to consider questions of Crimea's economic position and the structure and composition of the government. It is possible that the deputies will agree, and if there are objections, this will be ascertained at the session. The powers should, however, be equal and should balance one another.

[Question] Your personal opinion of the work of the government? How smooth will discussion of the composition of the government at the Supreme Soviet be?

[Tsekov] I do not have a full impression of its work, although it is positive, on the whole. And the discussion—have you noticed that discussion of the composition has not been smooth in a single CIS parliament?

[Question] How might you explain the president's aspiration to put together a Crimean Government of newcomers—what, is Crimea's intellectual potential exhausted?

[Tsekov] You had better ask Yu. Meshkov this. But I would not say that he is trying to form a government according to this principle. It will consist 90-95 percent of Crimeans.

As far as representatives of Russia in our government are concerned, this was necessary, and I fully approve and support this step of the president. What will happen in the future? Perhaps these people will become citizens of Crimea; it cannot be ruled out that their positions will be taken by Crimeans. But they have a sincere desire to help Crimea, I personally have no doubt about this.

S. Tsekov—Speaker

[Question] How do you feel in the role of speaker? Are you coping with this role?

[Tsekov] I feel confident thus far. I do not know what the future will bring, but the first two days went better than I had expected.

[Question] How controllable is our parliament? Is it submitting to the will of the speaker?

[Tsekov] I have the impression that the deputies understand that it is necessary to hold plenary sittings efficiently and have learned rapidly how to avail themselves of the Council, and this was a problem—remember how they demanded that microphones be installed in the hall? We have left them, but it seems to me that they are availing themselves of them less and less often.

[Question] Have you met with N. Bagrov?

[Tsekov] I have spoken with Nikolay Vasilyevich by telephone and intend to meet with him in the very near future. The purpose? He is a chairman of the Supreme Soviet with great experience, and I would like to familiarize myself with this experience—but this does not mean that I will borrow it in full.

On the whole, I believe that we must switch to civilized forms of intercourse. I criticized the chairman of the Supreme Soviet before I was elected to this office, but I do not intend doing so after I myself have become chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

Ciscarpathian Commander Views Combat Training

WS2305115494 Lvov MOLODA HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 17 May 94 p 2

["Exclusive" interview with Colonel General Petro Shulyak, commander of the Ciscarpathian Military District, PVO, by Lieutenant Colonel Vasyl Tarchynets, chief of the PVO press service; place and date not given: "Serving the Ukrainian People"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] *[Tarchynets] Did it ever occur to you, when you were a platoon commander, that many years later you would be the commander of a district? What is your reaction to the presidential edict granting you command of the Ciscarpatian Military District?*

[Shulyak] I did not even dream about such a post in my years as a lieutenant. However, frankly speaking, I have been pleased with all of my service advancements. I think it quite natural, because every soldier wants to make a career, to become a general. However, I have never attempted to get a promotion at any price; I have just worked honestly. Posts and ranks followed as recognition of my work. Therefore, I see my nomination for the commander of district troops as such a recognition as well. The president's edict in this regard is a legal document affirming my authority in the post of PVO commander.

[Tarchynets] How do you evaluate the current situation of the Ukrainian Army—the combat training of its personnel, particularly, the preparedness of the conscripts, as well as technical supplies and morale among the ranks?

[Shulyak] I can say that the combat training of district units is at a level that guarantees the reliable protection of western state borders. This, by the way, was affirmed by the recent regiment exercises which were attended by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. However, the training and level of combat readiness are subject to change; they can be improved without limits. This refers also to the preparation of conscripts. Therefore, we, the servicemen, jointly with military registration and enlistment offices, the Association for Assisting the Defense of Ukraine, and other institutions, will take pains to get good specialists in our Army. There is every possibility to accomplish this.

Understandably, the quality of training of any army specialist also depends on the prevailing morale, in which he masters his combat craft. Unfortunately, it is too early to affirm that every problem has already been resolved here. Let us say quite openly: We have not yet eliminated violations of discipline, bullying of conscripts, or just bad manners in the Army. However, the morale in the Army is going to improve.

[Tarchynets] Why have PVO commanders been changed so frequently?

[Shulyak] It should be noted that personnel changes are being made not only in our district, but also in all the other structures of the Armed Forces. It is conditioned by the process of building our Army, by bringing its quality and size in line with Ukraine's military doctrine. There is reduction as well as creation of new structures in our troops. Personnel changes follow this process of building. I think that this is quite a natural phenomenon.

[Tarchynets] What is your opinion about Kostyantyn Morozov's retirement from the post of defense minister? What do you think about his book "Flight Under President's Wing"? Was General Morozov the right man for the post of defense minister?

[Shulyak] I will begin with the last question. Yes, Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov undoubtedly was the right man for his post at the stage of the creation of Ukraine's Armed Forces. He did a lot to provide our state with its own Army. With regard to subsequent activities of the former defense minister and his book "Flight Under President's Wing," I think that this can be evaluated only by those who worked with General Morozov and possess appropriate information.

[Tarchynets] What is General Stepanov's—the former PVO commander's—lot? What is he doing?

[Shulyak] Lieutenant General Stepanov has been appointed deputy commander of the Odessa Military District for issues of reform. He still occupies this post.

[Tarchynets] Are you satisfied with your subordinates? Do you intend to make personnel changes in the district staff, combined units, formations, and units?

[Shulyak] There are experienced and competent officers and generals in the district staff; therefore I think that any urgent personnel changes are inexpedient. The same refers to the commands of combined units, formations, and units. However, as is known, the district command

recently underwent some changes. There were new deputy commanders and chiefs of certain departments and services nominated, while their predecessors were promoted to higher posts. For instance, Major Generals Oleh Shustenko and Ivan Kolesnikov became deputy commanders of the PVO troops, Major General Volodymyr Chernykh headed the PVO rear units, and Colonel Leonid Polishchuk became chief of the PVO personnel department. Colonel Vasyl Kazmirchuk was nominated chief of the troops of radioactive, chemical, and biological protection.

Following the creation of a new Armed Forces unit—the Land Forces—which are headed by Colonel General Vasyl Sobkov, deputy defense minister, a group of PVO officers and generals will be transferred to work in the Staff of the Land Forces. Thus, there are more personnel changes to come. [passage omitted]

Meshkov Interviewed After First 100 Days in Office

WS2305112094 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 19 May 94 p 3

[Report by Tatyana Korobova: "100 Days of President Yuriy Meshkov: 'I Am Walking Alone. Only a Stony Road Glimmers in the Haze....'"]

[Text] For Yuriy Meshkov, this date was probably a holiday. He laughed and joked a lot. Answering a question as to what he will do if official Kiev adopts a decision to introduce Ukrainian presidential rule in the Crimea, Meshkov said: "A wise man acts only one way. A stupid person can make a choice." Meshkov held out hopes—referring to a recent visit to the Crimea by acting Prime Minister Zvyahilskyy—that Ukraine has many sane people and it is up to them to define Crimean-Ukrainian relations.

As to the recent and unexpected statement by Leonid Kravchuk, who stated his personal opinion that the Crimean Tatars, like other peoples, have the right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state, Meshkov said that his position on this issue is different: "Of course, the full volume of human rights should be observed. The other issue is that of "satisfying one's ambitions."

With regard to the issue of Crimean Tatars (and the 50th anniversary of their deportation from the Crimea, the date being marked these days), Meshkov took into consideration the presence of foreign journalists and delivered an eloquent speech devoted to the tragedy of the deported peoples and the fault of all those (he mentioned the Crimea, Ukraine, Russia, and Uzbekistan), who did not take the pain of these peoples for their own tragedy. Later, Meshkov recalled the phrase: "The bell tolls for you." The president said that not all debts had been paid and he focused on the issue of the quota of Crimean Tatars among the Crimean Supreme Soviet deputies: "I am still of the opinion that political rights are not connected with national traits."

The president also spoke about his constant desire to keep his promise and crush the Mafia. However, he made allusions to something that no one could understand. To avoid any unnecessary reproaches for imprecision, I am going to cite Meshkov: "As to the defeat of the Mafia, it was supposed that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, along with the internal affairs minister, fully meet the existing demands on them. However, this is not true. You were present when the BBC queried the internal affairs minister on 5 September. In his interview, he declassified the operation which could cost the lives of his colleagues, my life, and the lives of the members of my family. The internal affairs minister declassified this operation. Later, he declared that he will not perform his duties because he has a president with such and such decrees. Therefore, we did not do much, however, we planned more. However, this subject is still pressing and the interested circles know that this issue will be radically resolved."

This speech resulted in more questions than proposals. What did former minister A. Plyuta declassify? What has Meshkov's life—who marked his first 100 days in office—to do with the 5 September interview? Does Meshkov mean his order regarding the arrest of 100-150 men who were allegedly Mafia members? However, the evidence of their conniving with the Mafia had to be searched for during the court proceedings which were supported by a storm of applause. What hampers the new internal minister in his fight against criminal groups which are operating quite openly? Finally, does Meshkov know who is among his entourage? If he does, with what Mafia is he going to combat? At the end of his crime-oriented monologue, we understood: It is not, while it is [as published].

What Meshkov did not mention was even more interesting. There were plans for a trade agreement with Russia to become the triumph of Meshkov's first 100 days because we see no other results at all. However, he kept silent on this subject. Probably, the reason was that S. Shakhray, Russia's representative, who, along with Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Saburov signed this agreement, resigned from his post the same day (he did not know that Yeltsin had already dismissed him) and held a news conference.

Meshkov also declared, in fact, avoiding straightforward statements, that the Crimea had to conduct a step-by-step demilitarization; that the National Guard of the Republic of Crimea—which a new legislature plans to organize-- would not be a military unit but a department for maintaining public order; that an extravagant idea of moving the Crimean capital from Simferopol to Sevastopol was caused by circumstances; that the deputies' impatience to show the government what is what will not result in a confrontation between the president and the legislature; and that Kiev's plausible attempts to repeal the autonomy cannot be conducted "immediately."

The day when a representative of the Ukrainian president was nominated to the Crimea, was, in Meshkov's words, the most depressing day in his 100 day presidential career. He made assurances that the happiest day is still awaiting him. In compliance with a request to cite some poetry to demonstrate his current emotional state, he cited Lermontov's poetry: "Only a stony road glimmers in the haze...." Then he thought for a while and added: "And I am walking alone." This, in my mind, corresponds to the truth.

Belarus

Kebich Discusses Economy, Election Platform

PM2305121594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 94 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Belarusian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich by Igor Osinskiy; place and date not given: "Opposition's Demarche and Premier's Position"]

[Text] He betrayed national interests, "surrendered" the state's independence to another country, and should be punished in accordance with Article 61 of the Criminal Code as a traitor to the motherland. That was the judgment passed on Vyacheslav Kebich in absentia by the participants in a recent press conference given by leaders of the Belorussian [Belarusian] People's Front. A letter has been sent to the parliament and the general prosecutor demanding that judicial proceedings be instituted against the head of government.

This hasty move, which is patently aimed at an excitable audience, only causes a wry smile.

The opposition is jumpy....

It has been so convenient for many months now to accuse the prime minister of deluding the people with the impracticable idea of creating a unified ruble zone and gradually reverting to a normal life worthy of man! Let us be frank. Kebich sometimes left himself open. His frequent overly optimistic statements that there was just one step to go to monetary union failed to materialize with suspicious regularity, thus alienating long-standing allies. In a desire to score as many propaganda points as possible from this, Stanislav Shushkevich did not wait for the official announcement of the election campaign but rushed to tour cities and villages saying how bad the parliament and government are. It is of course no secret to the retired speaker that this does not square with universally recognized norms. But the following has long since been well-known: Where there's a will there's a way. Another month or two is all that is needed!

But....

Readers saw that Premiers Chernomyrdin and Kebich ratified a treaty in Moscow with their signatures, giving the two countries' economies equal rights, removing customs barriers, and fixing unified prices of energy sources. Without the slightest chance of competing with Western output, Belorussian goods are once again turning up on the immense Russian market where there was always demand for them. Thus, enterprises that had shut down are beginning to work again. And the timid "hare" [the Belarusian currency] is giving way in people's wallets to the full-blooded ruble.

One may argue about whether Vyacheslav Kebich was involved in the breakup of the USSR, which was formalized, to our shame, in Viskuli, and how personally accountable he is for the agony of the Belorussian economy. These questions will probably be given exhaustive answers at some point. Today, there is no time for moralizing. It is important to understand something else: What direction should be taken now—toward the East as the government is insistently urging or toward the West, where the opposition is painting alluring mirages?

[Osinskiy] Vyacheslav Frantsevich, you are perhaps starting the presidential race in the most disadvantageous position. None of your rivals bears the burden of responsibility for the current state of the economy. At least that is what they themselves think. Even Stanislav Shushkevich is rushing to disavow what he has done in parliament. But you cannot get away from critical fire. Your rivals will pin "all manner of charges" on you. So here is a roundabout question for you: What is the reason for our collapse?

[Kebich] Gorbachev's perestroyka, beyond any shadow of a doubt. Having begun this without a well-founded concept, instead of replacing the rotten roof and ceilings and recasting the internal layout of our all-union home, the leaders of the CPSU set about shattering walls that had been built over centuries.

Had Gorbachev agreed at Novo-Ogarevo to turn the country into a confederation, I have no doubt that even the Baltic countries would have accepted this plan. However, the vain general secretary was convinced that he knew the situation better than anyone. The result was that, when the leaders of the three republics met in the Belovezhskaya Forest, the edifice of the USSR was already breaking up.

However, even at that critical moment it still could have and should have been saved. That was the aim of the document that the prime ministers signed. It enshrined a common economic area, a unified ruble zone, and transparency of borders. I am not ashamed of my signature on this treaty.

But in practice it proved a totally meaningless appendix to the document initialed by the heads of state. Political ambition and a desire to escape from the "union center's clutches" gained the upper hand. They gave rise to terrible centrifugal forces and brought about political, economic, social, and moral catastrophe.

[Osinskiy] Do you think that not everything was all that bad with the USSR's economic system? Have I understood you right?

[Kebich] Absolutely. In an attempt to justify their actions, "democrat" politicians are effectively committing blatant forgery. Ask any of them: Where does salvation lie? And you get the response: in the market. And everyone pictures a huge Komarovskiy bazaar [allusion unknown] across the whole country where total anarchy reigns. Gentlemen, no capitalist countries have a market like that! It only exists in your fevered imagination.

While I was chairman of the Republic's State Planning Committee I made frequent visits to the United States. And you know, the first person to whom I was introduced in each state was the governor's first deputy for planning. State regulation is an indispensable condition for a normal market.

[Osinskiy] During my work in the FRG I also encountered this at every turn. Small German firms, for instance, curse the government like nothing on earth for not being given quotas to import cheap vodka and consumer goods from the CIS countries. Agricultural regulation is even tougher. East German peasants were forced to leave half their land fallow so as to prevent overproduction of grain. Admittedly, the state's diktat is not administrative but economic here.

[Kebich] That is the whole crux of the matter, the main distinction from the preposterous capitalism that is being cultivated in our country. Something similar happened in the West during the "Great Depression." Leading capitalist countries extricated themselves from economic crisis not despite but with the help of reasonable planning and regulation. Take for example the states of Southeast Asia which are a household name today. Why did Japan, South Korea, and Singapore reach the heights of economic prosperity so rapidly? Because everything was laid down there, planned down to the finest detail.

For two years we too succeeded in preventing the wholesale breakup of the economy thanks to the tremendous safety margin built in during Soviet times. The republic had a very strong and disciplined industry and highly developed agriculture. Remember: In 1989 national income rose around 8 percent and we did not drop below the figure of 6 percent even during the worst years. Belorussia almost reached the U.S. level in terms of per capita meat production and outstripped it by a factor of 2.5 in terms of milk production. The government tried to restructure the economic mechanism without putting it out of action as happened in Russia and other USSR republics. Joe Public had the impression (and the opposition did its utmost to foster it) that reforms were being deliberately delayed. In fact, we prepared them carefully, avoiding ill-conceived actions, and thanks to this we have kept ourselves afloat for the time being.

[Osinskiy] The opposition claims that the main secret of the relative stability of the time was the low price of energy sources.

[Kebich] That is not true. They were higher then than in Russia and the difference became even more tangible from month to month, but we nonetheless held our ground and the Russian economy collapsed. To be honest I am surprised at how we succeeded in surviving! Since even Ukraine, with its wealth of natural resources and favorable climate, ended up on its knees right away.... No, it was this safety margin that saved us. That has now disappeared. And people have become fully aware of rampant savage market forces.

[Osinskiy] I think that the "democrats" would disagree with you there. They think that the situation in Russia is improving because Gaydar and his team jumped into the cold water of the market without fear and doubt. Needless to say, they swallowed a lot of water, but then they started swimming! We are all standing on the bank testing the water.

[Kebich] They may have started swimming—but to where? Back to the bank that they left so easily. Chernomyrdin's government is making increasingly vigorous use of plan levers and is channeling state investment into those sectors on which the future of the whole economy depends. If you want to know, it is not Belorussia that needs to overtake Russia but Russia that needs to restore what we have managed to preserve.

[Osinskiy] The opposition looks as though it is right about some things: Have Kebich and his government deliberately held up market reforms.

[Kebich] Yes. Just add the prefix "pseudo" to the word "reforms"—"pseudoreforms." I do not consider "reforms" that are designed to destroy the economy and which advocate shock therapy, and hence the mass impoverishment of the population, to be genuine and I will never support them.

[Osinskiy] Vyacheslav Frantsevich, a very complex election marathon lies ahead. With what platform are you beginning it?

[Kebich] I will present my election program later. But I can tell you now that it is based on the position of centrism as a basis for popular accord. I think that the future president should use ideas, plans based on their good sense regardless of which party proposed them, and support ideas and plans that come from "left" or "right." During the election campaign let us seek a more acceptable economic model for our country without slighting one another and without digging up the dirt. And may victory go to the person whose arguments the voters consider the most cogent.

Seen Wooing Voters With 'Expensive' Money

PM2305135394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Starikevich: "Belorussian [Belarusian] Government Takes Out Loan for Elections"]

[Text] Minsk—According to the laws of physics, a body in free fall gathers speed. Approximately the same thing is happening to the Belorussian [Belarusian] economy—it seems as though the Vyachaslaw Kebich government sees its sole task as being to make sure that the landing (which will be anything but soft) does not happen before the presidential elections.

All the emergency braking systems available to the Council of Ministers have been brought into play. At a routine session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium 18 July [as published] a decree was passed under pressure from

ranking government officials on the allocation of loans to the Council of Ministers. The National Bank of Belorussia [Belarus] is obliged to grant the government 50 billion rubles [R] in both May and June out of the revenue received in the first quarter. It is interesting that this revenue came to just R36.6 billion. So there is nowhere for the money to come from, except from the printing presses. But even that is not all. Commercial banks have been instructed (!) to allocate the Council of Ministers loans totaling R400 billion in May-June. Hardly anyone is likely to be taken in by the bashful formula "allocate"—the mechanism of voluntary coercion was elaborated back in the years of developed socialism and still functions well to this day.

Stanislaw Bahdankevich, chairman of the National Bank, announced at a press conference that the money supply in the Republic had increased 28-fold since January last year. It is not hard to guess that the Belorussian Government's next economic crisis will lead to a fall in the Belorussian ruble's exchange rate. Why is the government taking this action and where will the money go?

The widely publicized agreement on monetary system unification is still not having any results. And nor could it—that has long been clear to economists. But, as Stanislaw Bahdankevich noted, "not all of us in the government are familiar with economics." On the eve of the elections, the prime minister's team, which has staked a great deal on unification, would like to have at least some positive effect to show the voters. The removal of customs duties as of 1 May has not led to any reduction in prices.

The hundreds of billions—some freshly printed, others virtually confiscated from commercial banks—will be used to pay workers at budget-funded institutions. Under no circumstances does the government want to leave voters without any money on the eve of the elections. And although this golden rain may be expensive, it will make it possible for the prime minister to become president.

Finance Minister Interviewed on Currency Union

PM2305131594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 94 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Stepan Yanchuk, Republic of Belarus minister of finances, by Yekaterina Vysotskaya; place and date not given: "What Is Left 'Out of the Picture' of Unification"]

[Text] Details that were not put down on paper, but which stem from the agreement signed in Moscow on the unification of the monetary systems were the subject of this interview with Stepan Yanchuk, Republic of Belarus [Belorussia] minister of finances.

The minister noted a number of elements which have not yet been mentioned aloud. He announced that despite the declared procedure for the exchange of Belorussian money for Russian, the reassessment of enterprises' fixed capital will not proceed evenly.

[Yanchuk] Fixed capital, and that means primarily equipment, was bought five years ago at some enterprises and 50 years ago at others, Stepan Yanchuk said. So a corrective coefficient will be applied.

One more detail is that the Republic must seek on its own sources for eliminating the discrepancy between the cost of the Russian ruble and the Belorussian ruble when exchanging money in savings banks. Therefore, the government will have to make a big effort not to ruin the banks. And not only the savings bank but also the commercial banks. In addition when money is exchanged by individuals in sums in excess of 200,000 it is not simply the general exchange rate which will be used, calculated on the basis of differences in the cost of consumer goods baskets, but a rectified exchange rate. This is connected with the fact that a speculative dollar exchange rate is in operation in Russia and Belarus today. So when establishing the exchange rate for Belorussian "hares" against Russian rubles an adjustment for the speculative element will be made.

Stepan Yanchuk specified the needs for which, according to the treaty, Russia will give Belarus 200 billion rubles:

Today, we have a negative balance of payments with Russia. The debts for gas and oil total over 600 billion Russian rubles. So far, the Russian Federation is supplying us with gas and in part with oil on credit. And to ensure that the Republic can settle its debts we have been earmarked this money for the first half of the year. We will reach a new agreement on credit for the second half of the year.

[Vysotskaya] Stepan Petrovich, it is known that the keenest disputes when signing the documents were generated by the fifth point of the treaty, which states that emission is effected exclusively by the Central Bank of Russia. Should we be afraid that the functions of the Republic's National Bank will be assumed by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation?

[Yanchuk] Even if the fifth point remains in the form which it has now, but the policy of the Russian Government and the Central Bank of Russia with regard to Belarus does not change, then there is no great fear.

We would simply like to protect ourselves against the unexpected so we are making attempts to somewhat amend the way it is formulated.

[Vysotskaya] The opponents of unification assert that Belarus, like Russia, will suffer from a constant shortage of cash and delays in payments. How real are these fears?

[Yanchuk] I must say that in Russia there are no longer any cash problems. That wages are not always paid is another matter, since the enterprises lack funds. Under the treaty the Russian side undertook to supply Belarus with cash. As for the question of whether Belorussian enterprises will have the money to pay wages, just as

today not everyone has money so in the future some people may not have it. The main thing is to give a push to production, after all it is production that creates money.

Incidentally, over the first quarter of this year production decline in Belarus was 36 percent. Because of this the budget shortfall was 1.5 trillion rubles. Enterprises are standing idle. The reason is the price factor, because of which our output is not competitive even on the Russian market, not to mention the world market. A unification which equalizes prices will make it possible to boost our production and economy.

Deputy Says Presidium Uses 'Command' Economy Methods

WS2305132694 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Interview with People's Deputy Dmitriy Petrovich Bulakhov by Vladimir Samoylov; place and date not given: "Any Law Is Ineffective If Powers Do Not Want To Implement It"]

[Text] [Samoylov] Dmitriy Petrovich, you are a member of the Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet which adopted a resolution "On Issuing Loans." When I read it, I recalled the old days—we call it the time of the command system. Currently, we say we have nothing to do with it. Anyway, this document is strange....

[Bulakhov] I am angry that everything is being done in a hurry. Such an important issue—issuing big loans to the government—demands more than a five minute or even a full day discussion. A draft resolution was submitted to the members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium five minutes before the beginning of the discussion. Furthermore, this draft resolution gave neither the reasons, the arguments, or assessments of the consequences of this proposal.

[Samoylov] Even the budget of a family undergoes a longer and more precise discussion!

[Bulakhov] There should have been a financial-economic grounding, consultations should have been held in various legislative commissions, and so on. They did nothing of the kind. This is a gross violation of a range of legislative acts.

[Samoylov] What legislative acts do you mean?

[Bulakhov] I am speaking about the laws "On the National Bank," "On Banks and Banking System," and "On the Budget." The most essential is that the Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet is not authorized to resolve such issues.

[Samoylov] In my opinion, the precedent was established when the Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a decision to issue trillions of rubles to the agricultural sector for conducting a spring campaign.

[Bulakhov] I said then that we cannot resolve the issue by violating the Constitution. Why did we adopt the Constitution then?

[Samoylov] All of us remember how deputies congratulated each other when the Constitution was adopted. Currently, they propose either introducing an addenda to the Constitution or simply ignoring it. However, these are formal violations. What can you say about this?

[Bulakhov] This is no secret. We lack money to pay wages to the budget sector employees—teachers, physicians, servicemen, etc. Where can we take the money? As it is common with us, the decision is very simple: To take the Belarusian National Bank's profits and the working capital of the commercial banks. However, nobody ever says under what conditions.

[Samoylov] They will probably conduct negotiations, as they put it, privately.

[Bulakhov] If the Cabinet of Ministers begins conducting negotiations and refers to the Supreme Soviet's decision, this will mean extortion at the state level. Why are they doing this? They say they proceed from economic expediency. However, there is no such economic expediency. The problem arose due to our government's "activities."

[Samoylov] What do you mean?

[Bulakhov] It promised to freeze prices and rents and to raise wages on the eve of the election campaign. These promises should be covered by money. However, you patch one hole but a new one appears. The result of all this is that we cannot pay workers of the budget sector.

However, the tragedy is that in one or one and a half months from now, this will come back to us as increased inflation. Prices will climb more quickly, the inflation rate will become uncontrolled. Already in July we will have to pay for this resolution.

[Samoylov] That is, after the presidential elections.

[Bulakhov] In June, we will cautiously cover this hole.

The danger is also in that we take the working capital from commercial banks that, in fact, work for the economy. Actually, we take this money from enterprises which could invest this money. This is how we could finally ruin our industry.

[Samoylov] Are our laws so ineffective that it is possible to ignore them?

[Bulakhov] Any law is ineffective if the power does not want to implement it.

[Samoylov] What will you do? Will you leave the people without money?

[Bulakhov] This is the first time (however, not the last one) that we have had a nonpayment crisis. This disease is well known in Russia where the workers of the budget sector sometimes do not receive money for three to four

months. This is the result of our economic helplessness. We should formulate a strategy of a credit and money policy which, to my regret, we now lack.

This should be honestly explained to the people. However, this is unrewarding. The presidential elections are just around the corner. However, after elections, everything could go to hell! Therefore, this expediency was dictated by political reasons. The government, which had bet on Kebich, wants to save up additional points before the elections. The poor people will pay this bill.

Reporter Claims 'Unofficial Privatization' Began in 1991

WS2305120394 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 16 May 94 p 4

[Report by Andrey Shavanda: "Do Not Worry: You Can Squander Your Vouchers on Drinking"]

[Excerpt] A proverb says that wise people learn by others' mistakes. The Belarusian Government considers itself to be wise. We, they say, will observe our neighbors, estimate costs and present the most rational program [for carrying out privatization] to the Belarusian people.

However, many people have already realized that these words are for those wretched people who continue to trust the government. As do the sane people, they prefer analyzing a performance. The official performance is as follows.

Official privatization began much later than unofficial privatization. The unofficial privatization has been in progress for over three years. For example, according to an important official from the Ministry of Trade, all more or less profitable enterprises dealing with public catering in Minsk were already privatized in 1991-92. The same concerns profitable enterprises in other sectors. The mechanism of privatization is very simple: A joint stock enterprise is organized, or an enterprise is leased by a working collective, or a people's enterprise is established—there are a lot of versions. The absolute majority of stock is taken by the initiators and their entourage. At a specified time, a group of people declares that they have a controlling interest in an enterprise. So, you understand what happens next.

Belarusian citizens can obtain vouchers beginning 1 April. This means that various investment funds should have already begun their operations, saying nothing about the implementation of the legislative and executive mechanisms. As of today (early May), 24 investment funds filed applications to receive licenses for conducting operations with vouchers. However, none of them has yet received a license. The Committee for Administration of State Property has even not drafted a regulation regarding licensing—and you know why.

We also lack a mechanism for changing vouchers for stock. In addition, an investment fund can buy only 10 percent of an enterprise's stock. This is foreseen by the "Law on Demonopolization and Privatization." There is no opportunity to buy the entire stock of an enterprise.

Thus, The Committee for Administration of State Property has found itself in a rather unusual situation. On the one hand, it should fulfill promises given by Comrade Kebich regarding "fair privatization." On the other hand, privatization has already been carried out, the property has been divided, and there are new owners. The chairman of the Control Chamber has already spoken on this subject: He claimed that people can only hope for leftovers from their masters' tables; nothing more is left.

Generally speaking, people are well aware of this: As of 15 April, only 2,123 certificates [sertyfikaty] (something like a savings-bank book where the number of a person's vouchers is registered) were issued. The cost of a voucher—25,000 rubles—does not change. At the same time, the Cabinet of Ministers banned the auctioning of vouchers to protect them from complete "devaluation." If an auction is conducted, people would see that a voucher has a very low market price.

It is planned that the trade in vouchers will begin as early as 1 July—already after the presidential campaign. Until this time, it is only possible to buy the vouchers, however, nobody knows how to do it. How can any operations with vouchers be conducted if auctions are banned and it is impossible to estimate its price?

Belarusian businessmen consider that Valery Matsyushewski, chairman of the Committee for Administration of State Property, is an adversary of privatization. This is only partially true. Enemy number one of privatization is at the top. Mr. Matsyushewski only carries out his orders. [passage omitted]

Program for 'Structural Reshaping' of Industry Viewed

WS2005133794 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 17 May 94 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Valkowski: "Conversion Will Be Continued Despite Difficulties"]

[Text] How many Belarusian enterprises worked for defense? This is still unknown, but one can definitely say that at least a vast majority. All of them are currently living through hard times. There are no contracts, no subassemblies; nobody knows what to do with products piled up in warehouses (of course, Belarus used to produce only a part of the end product). Enterprises manufacturing civilian goods are in no better shape. It is hard to get access to new markets, some technologies have become desperately obsolete and thus, the products are not competitive.

There exists a well-known way to resolve the situation—by means of structural reshaping and conversion. These are very complicated processes.

At the headquarters of Belarusian producers—the State Committee for Industries and Interbranch Ties—much has been done and is still being done in this field.

A program for the structural reshaping of Belarusian industries in the 1990's has been drafted, discussed, and passed by the Council of Ministers. According to Mikhail Prakharenka, department chief at the State Committee for Industries, the program has determined priority industries—the building of metal-processing machines, electronic devices, instruments, computers and communication equipment, pharmacology, polymer, and construction materials. The priority nature of these branches will be supported by a package of advantages: direct investments from the state budget, and regulation of imports by means of tariffs. The aim of these measures is to fill the market, increase exports, and decrease imports by means of developing the branches capable of manufacturing goods that are currently imported.

The committee is paying serious attention to conversion. Due to assistance rendered by committee experts in 1993, a number of enterprises undergoing conversion have definitely changed the proportion between military and civilian production. In most cases the ratio of 92 to 8 percent has been changed to that of 8 to 92 percent. There are fewer military contracts. However the state policy is also aimed at preserving the existing level of production of armaments and military hardware and enhancing exports of competitive products. It is also necessary to supply the Belarusian Armed Forces.

The scientific and technological potential of defense enterprises is quite high. Sometimes it cannot be used at civilian enterprises because military technologies are several decades ahead of the current level. The primary goal of conversion is to preserve the accomplishments and reorient the existing scientific and technological potential toward manufacturing competitive civilian products. Defense enterprises are engaged in a majority of nationwide projects and scientific-technological endeavors.

Many Minsk residents have abandoned hope of ever having telephones installed. The program drafted by committee experts will help speed up installation of telephones in Minsk homes. It envisions the use of high-tech equipment in the field of communication, namely radio telephones. This does not demand the laying of costly telephone cables. New automated telephone stations will also be cheaper than traditional ones.

It is hard to enumerate all concrete programs drafted for various industries. All in all, there are 17 of them.

The aim of these programs is well-defined—to enhance the efficiency of production and reduce consumption of power and materials. The implementation of all the priority programs that involve more than thirty scientific staffs, has begun. There have been results, too. More than 2,000 sample products have been manufactured within the framework of these programs, including consumer goods never produced in Belarus.

Instrument-builders are unquestionable leaders in this competition. Thus far, they have designed and launched production of 28 models of wood-processing equipment, a number of new machines for the production of bearings, universal knee-type milling machines and lathes, as well as high-precision thread milling machines.

Machine builders can be proud of the new diesel engines, the new type of MAZ trucks, and truck-mounted cranes capable of lifting up to 20 tonnes.

Radio electronic devices deserve to be mentioned separately. This industry is the basis for developing other branches because it determines the technological level and exports potential of industries producing home appliances, radio electronic and information systems, means of communication, medical equipment, and various means of transportation.

A large number of radio electronic enterprises are concentrated in Minsk alone. Their modernization and realigning to novel technologies would entail huge costs. However it is clear that this is inevitable. The Belarusian computer market is flooded with equipment assembled in Asia which, very often, is of poor quality. Yet our personal computers are inferior even to these low-quality products. That is why our state enterprises and institutions bought almost $3 million worth of computers in 1993 alone. This money could have been paid to native producers provided they offered competitive equipment.

The State Committee for Industries concentrates its efforts on these targets. What we can produce ourselves we should produce here, and not buy overseas. Otherwise our industries will not survive.

Moldova

President, Parliament Speaker Meet Gagauz Leaders

LD2305171694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Moldavia's [Moldova] President Mircea Snegur and the Moldavian Parliament's Speaker Petr Luchinskiy met in Kishinev [Chisinau] Monday [23 May] with President Stepan Topal and other leaders of the non-recognized Gagauz Republic. The meeting took place behind closed doors.

As INTERFAX has learned from a source close to the Moldavian president, the leaders continued to discuss a bill on giving Gagauz settlements a special administrative status. Conclusions of experts from the Council of Europe and proposals of other international bodies were taken into account.

The Gagauz side is reported to have accepted a compromise formula, according to which the Gagauz country is

an autonomous ethnic territorial entity rather than a state autonomous territorial entity on which it has insisted so far.

As the Moldavian President's State Counselor Victor Grebenshikov has told Interfax, "there are reasons to believe that the Gagauz issue will be solved soon." In his opinion, "a parliamentary commission has been working hard to draft a Gagauz autonomy accord."

"I think—he remarked—the document will ensure the interests of Moldavia—its territorial integrity and sovereignty—and will guarantee the existence and development of Gagauz settlements."

Grebenshikov stressed that during their talks the leaders of Moldavia and Gagauzia saw eye to eye on all matters discussed.

Meanwhile, during the work of the parliamentary commission on Gagauzia, the two sides have agreed to keep the concrete issues under discussion out of media coverage to avoid agitation.

Snegur Undecided on Special Status for Tiraspol

LD2305164494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 23 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 97 (587); compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The talks between Kishinev [Chisinau] and Tiraspol on a settlement in the Dniester river valley will be difficult. The statement was made to the press in Kishinev by President Mircea Snegur. He said the Tiraspol side stands for making Moldova a federal state or confederation, which is unacceptable for Kishinev.

As for the special legal status of Tiraspol Snegur said one can judge about its form only when the first version of the draft law is available. So far one can only say that it is a question of decentralizing executive power, surrendering the functions of local self-government to Tiraspol in the framework of a common state with a common constitution, foreign policy, armed forces, and law enforcement bodies.

Snegur spoke with satisfaction that concrete steps are taken to restore the common economic space of Moldova.

The president said that the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from Moldova should not be linked with the special legal status of the area.

Meanwhile, according to the secretary of state of the self-proclaimed Transdniester Republic Valeriy Litskay the joint statement of the leaders of Kishinev and Tiraspol has not been duly applied in practice and negotiations have actually stopped.

Litskay said that at the moment the sides are actively preparing for the resumption of the talks but it is too early to speak of concrete proposals. According to him, groups of experts dealing with economic problems and the settlement of mutual debts are the most active.

As for defining the status of the river valley, the work in this direction has practically stopped, Litskay said.

Tiraspol is linking the absence of the progress at the talks with the fact that Kishinev wants to resolve the problem of the Gagauzi ethnic minority and then use the solution as a pattern for defining the status of Tiraspol. It wants to win the support of international organizations in that.

14th Army Accuses Dniester Officials of Corruption

LD2305151394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The commanders of Russia's 14th Army deployed in Transdniestria [Dniester] have called on the Russian government to withdraw Russian citizenship from the leaders of the self-styled Republic of Transdniestria. They accused almost all Tiraspol leaders holding Russian passports of abusing their status as Russian citizens. The appeal follows compromising evidence against Tiraspol officials that the commanders have at their disposal.

Military commander of Tiraspol Mikhail Bergman in an interview with INTERFAX accused regional leaders not only of financial irregularities and corruption, but also of uncontrolled distribution of weapons to dubious individuals and former criminals. "I am in possession of evidence indicating that a total of 908 units of firearms were handed over to different people under orders from President Igor Smirnov himself", he said. Bergman hopes that this and the local militants' involvement in last year's parliamentary revolt in Moscow will bring an immediate response from Moscow.

Bergman also said that the Transdniestrian officials took advantage of their Russian citizenship to travel freely to the West where they keep secret accounts for money laundering. Smirnov himself has a total of 3.5 million dollars on his bank deposit in Austria withdrawing a further 1.5 million dollars from that account at the end of last year, according to Bergman. He said other Tiraspol leaders were no better.

Kazakhstan

Details of Premier Tereshchenko's Recent Visit to Iran

LD2305212994 Almaty Radio Almaty World Service in English 1830 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Recently, a Kazakhstani delegation headed by Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko visited the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the agenda of this official visit were issues of trade and economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Iran. The Iranian first deputy president received the Kazakhstani governmental delegation.

During the meeting, Mr. Tereshchenko remarked on the already existing and very close relationship between Kazakhstan and Iran. He noted that during the visit of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Almaty, several important documents on bilateral cooperation were signed. Mr. Tereshchenko said that this visit of his was to activate work on the fulfillment of the agreement and the removal of obstacles in the way of increasing mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation. Mr. Tereshchenko expressed his hope that this visit of his would provide a new ground for widening bilateral cooperation in economy and trade. He noted that Kazakhstan was interested in building relations with Iran in such spheres as land, sea, and air transportation, trade of oil products, economic minerals, metals, agricultural products, as well the banking business.

The first deputy president of Iran, Mr. Hasan Habibi, in his turn hailed the strengthening relations of the two countries, noting that on 15 May 1994 the first air route between the capital cities of Kazakhstan and Iran was opened. This route will be served by airliners of the Iranian national air company Iran Air.

During his stay in Iran, Mr. Tereshchenko also visited the former Iranian capital city of Esfahan. A negotiation on the Kazakhstani-Iranian cooperation in the sphere of metallurgy and exchange of technology and specialists was held. In Tehran, the Kazakhstani delegation held intensive negotiations with the representatives of Iranian business circles on organizing banking cooperation which will help simplify calculations between the trade companies of the two countries. The Kazakhstani Minister of Energetics and Fuel Resources, Mr. Kadyr Baykenov, met with the Iranian Minister of Petroleum, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i. They discussed the opportunities of cooperation and setting up a factory in Kazakhstan for oil refining and building an oil pipeline between the two nations.

Protesters Expose Rights Violations in Kazakhstan

PM2405083994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 2

[Report by Marina Lebedeva and Vladimir Ardayev: "Human Rights in Conference Hall and Outside It"]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—The International Conference on Human Rights, "Public Organizations and Power: Interaction in a Democratic Society," has ended in Alma-Ata.

The discussion corresponded fully with the main theme of the conference. But the "thorniest" aspects inevitably concerned events unfolding nearby, outside the conference hall of the Alma-Ata sociopolitical center.

Formally, following the adoption of the new Constitution and the reconstruction of the main legal base, practically no laws remain in Kazakhstan which directly violate human rights—human rights must not be violated by law here. But this year's elections have shown the weakness and lack of coordination of the social associations and their vulnerability before the "party in power," something that CSCE observers emphasized, as well as the undeveloped state or almost complete absence of independent mass media in Kazakhstan.

One example confirming the fairness of this analysis came up straight away on the first day of the conference's work. On the eve of its opening, 16 May, an unsanctioned rally of pickets, several of whom had declared a hunger strike, broke out on the square outside the building of the parliament, which had gathered for the latest stage of its first session. The militia drove the hunger strikers out of the square, and five of them were arrested. This was prompted by an actual parliament decision, which essentially outlawed not only obvious demonstrations, but also "other gatherings of citizens."

The speech by V. Lyubushkin, a deputy from the North Kazakhstan Oblast Council [Maslikhat], devoted to the "Russian question," was a dramatic one. He cited "acts of intimidation to others," applied by the Kazakhstani authorities toward those who are trying to defend the rights of the Russian-speaking population, as a state policy distortion that is exacerbating this question. Thus, Boris Suprunyuk, chairman of the "Russian Community of North Kazakhstan" and a journalist, is under arrest.

The conflictual situation arose during the work of the civil rights conference with the sociopolitical newspaper KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA—the most popular Russian-language publication in the Republic. Quite recently, the "Kazakhstan" television and radio broadcasting company was transformed into a corporation under the control of the authorities by being merged with a private television company—and a presidential representative was appointed in it, in the person of press service leader I. Romanov.

At IZVESTIYA's request, assessing the conference that has ended, Burkutbay Ayaganov, deputy chief of the internal policy section in the president's apparatus and the Kazakhstani Republic Cabinet of Ministers, who participated in it, called it "effective," and said it testified to democratic Kazakhstan's desire to become a rule-of-law state.

When asked to comment on the cases of the violation of human rights which occurred in the past few days outside the conference hall, the deputy chief of section answered that he is not prepared to do so as he does not have sufficient information at his disposal.

Tajikistan

Tajik Rebels Driven Back Across Afghan Border

LD2305133994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Fighting broke out overnight between Russian border guards and Tajik rebels who tried to infiltrate into Tajikistan's Panj region from neighboring Afghanistan. There are no casualties among Russian troops, a military source told INTERFAX. No word is given of the number of killed or wounded on the rebels' side.

There have been as many as four incidents since last Friday [20 May] in which Russian forces opened artillery and mortar fire on small groups of armed rebels as they tried to infiltrate the country along two sections of the Afghan border. None of Russian troops were hurt, but there is no word of casualties on the rebels' side.

Any attempt at illegal border crossing will be suppressed, a senior official of the Russian Border Forces in Tajikistan said.

Russian Industrialists' Union President Arrives in Dushanbe

LD2305195094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1811 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The main purpose of the visit to Tajikistan by the President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs is participation in a congress of the Tajik Union of Science and Industry on Wednesday [25 May]. He disclosed this to INTERFAX on Monday in Dushanbe where he arrived as the head of a 23 person delegation.

Volskiy thinks the contacts of industrialists are now extremely necessary for both Russia and Tajikistan because there is a burning need to discuss further cooperation and begin seeking a way out of the crisis. "We cannot help it, because we would find life difficult without each other," Volskiy said.

Asked about the expected results of the working visit Volskiy said an agreement with the Tajik union was drafted and Russian businessmen would gladly sign it, if Tajik colleagues approved it.

The visit will last till 26 May. On Tuesday Volskiy is to meet the chairman of parliament Emomali Rakhmonov.

Uzbekistan

Kazakh President Arrives in Tashkent for Festival

LD2305114994 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1000 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Days of Kazakhstan are being held in Uzbekistan. A few hours ago the delegation from our fraternal republic led by Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, arrived in Tashkent. Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Held a news conference:

[Begin Karimov recording] My friend is in our country at a time when Uzbeks and Kazakhs [are meeting here]. Our forefathers were the same. The two peoples' intellectual and working lives and wishes are the same. If we look at the intellectual and working life of the people today it is difficult, it is a difficult time for Kazakhstan and for Uzbekistan. There are all kinds of difficulties in Uzbekistan and similarly in Kazakhstan. In Kazakhstan there are forces that cannot accept its independence, and in Uzbekistan there also forces that cannot accept its independence.

Sharing what my friend has just said I would like to say that if we are together our backs will be strong and if everyone works together [words indistinct] we will reach our destiny and our aims. Our aim is for the well-being of the Kazakhs and the Uzbeks, for all those living in the region. There is everything. Our peoples are hardworking. There is everything. Our aims are in good faith. [words indistinct]. Like today, [words indistinct] we need to be together. Again, I would like to welcome Nursultan Nazarbayev to the Days of Kazakhstan in Uzbekistan [words indistinct] which is of political and cultural significance. I think that today and tomorrow these days of Kazakhstan in Uzbekistan [words indistinct]. Kazakhs will meet Uzbeks—meet their friends—and they will have a lot to talk about. The Uzbeks have a great deal to talk about and so do the Kazakhs. I think that the meetings of two friends and two relatives will [remainder of item indistinct]

President Interviewed

LD2305153994 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] An official Kazakhstan delegation, led by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, arrived in Tashkent today. It includes Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, parliament's Speaker Abish Kekilbayev, and other senior officials.

Presidents Islam Karimov and Nursultan Nazarbayev had a meeting today, then they attended the opening of Kazakhstan's exhibition "Science, New Technology and Conversion" at the exhibition center. The head of our state laid flowers at the memorial to Alisher Navoi.

Members of the Kazakh delegation met with their Uzbek counterparts. Both presidents and members of the official delegations attended the opening ceremony of Days of Kazakhstan at the Torkeston center. It was followed by a concert of Uzbek music. The Days of Kazakhstan will last until 27 May and will contribute to closer integration between the economies of two countries.

The two presidents were interviewed at the airport today.

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have not held an event like this since 1977. Earlier, such events were mostly political. This is the first event of its kind since the two countries gained their independence and sovereignty. Around 600 people from various regions of Kazakhstan have arrived in Tashkent. Among them are scholars, businessmen, leaders of enterprises and farms, and others.

The aim is first to familiarize them with the reforms in Uzbekistan and their progress. Second, as you know, [Uzbek President] Islam Karimovich and I have signed an agreement on encouraging cooperation between the two countries. We want the economies of the two countries to compliment each other—Kazakhstan has certain things which are not available in Uzbekistan and vice versa. I hope that a commission, which has been set up by the two presidents will contribute to encouraging closer economic cooperation without bureacratic hurdles. A similar event will be held in Kazakhstan at the beginning of winter this year.

Such events are important in strengthening ties between the two countries. Through them the two nations will get to know each other better, will learn about the market reforms in the respective countries. Kazakhs and Uzbeks were once considered as one nation. We have common roots, similar languages, and a common mentality. There is nothing that can divide us, and there never has been. We have always been together and all we have to do now is to revive these ties. [end recording]

Armenia

Armenia Claims Azeri Cease-Fire Violations 22 May

LD2305114794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] On Sunday evening Azerbaijani formations violated the cease-fire accords and from Azerbaijani territory shelled Armenian border troop positions near the village of Movses, in Armenia's Tauzskiy Rayon. Interfax learned this at the Armenian Defense Ministry's press center. There were no casualties, and the border troops did not open fire in retaliation.

Deputies Hold Closed Meeting on Karabakh Situation

NC2305202394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1511 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, May 23 (SNARK)—Today during a closed sitting Armenian deputies were given a report on the course of the latest negotiations on Karabakh problem. The report was made by the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Zhirair Liparityan.

The journalists were not allowed to attend the sitting.

Karabakh Minister Denies Continued Army Attacks

NC2305202494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1009 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert, May 23 (SNARK)—Arkadi Gukasyan, Karabakh Foreign Minister, refuted the statements of the Baku officials that the Karabakh Army destroyed the occupied towns, villages, communications and historical monuments on the threshold of the negotiations on the Karabakh conflict's settlement.

In his interview to SNARK Mr. Gukasyan said such statements aimed at displaying the Karabakh military forces as barbarous in the face of the world community.

But the fact is that the Azeris themselves have bombarded their towns and villages, said the Minister. Only in Agdam there fell more than 300 shells since it has been under the control of the Karabakh army.

Mr. Gukasyan consider the Azeris have shelled their own towns seeking to destroy the Karabakh military posts and barracks, which they suppose are placed there.

Now, when the prospects of a long-termed armistice are very real, the Azeri propaganda is trying to conceal its own sins and to discredit Karabakh, which only complicates the process of negotiations, said Arkadi Gukasyan.

Azerbaijan

Azeris Accuse Armenia of 'Barbaric Acts'

LD2305155294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1510 GMT 23 May 94

[By Alla Baula, AZERTAC correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 23 May (ITAR-TASS)—"The Armenian armed forces are perpetrating barbaric acts in the occupied Azeri territories, destroying intact residential buildings, communications, health care, economic, and other facilities." This statement was made today by Azeri State Adviser Vafa Gulizade, who was citing reliable sources. He said this information was also confirmed by a deserter from the Armenian army.

Vafa Gulizade informed journalists that the republic's president, Geydar Aliyev, appealed to Jan Eliasson, chairman of the CSCE Minsk group, and to permanent members of the CSCE, asking them to put pressure on Armenia to end acts of vandalism by occupying Armenian troops. In the current situation the Azeri president has also written to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, asking him to inform members of the UN Security Council of these developments.

Aliyev Assures No Russian Troop Deployment in Azerbaijan

LD2305162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 23 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 97 (587) compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] In President Heydar Aliyev's words, the Azerbaijani leadership persistently continues to search for peace in Karabakh.

As he has reported at a meeting with refugees from that region, "consultations are underway with CSCE and Russian leaders on a reliable ceasefire and measures to eliminate the aftermaths of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict."

On the opposition's reaction to Azerbaijan's signing of the Bishkek protocol, Aliyev declared: "The leadership did the right thing, having signed the accord. For Baku, the protocol meant only one thing—a ceasefire."

At the same time, he criticized opposition lawmakers for deserting parliament a few days ago and for trying to hold a rally in Baku on Saturday. "Instead of organizing rallies and other mass protests, political parties should consult authorities and be in close touch with them," he stressed.

IF Note: Azerbaijan's National Resistance Movement, which includes 14 opposition parties, planned a rally on the Freedom Square in Baku on Saturday in protest against a possible introduction of Russian or CIS troops

in Azerbaijan as a force that would disengage the Armenian and Azerbaijani troops. Nearly one hour before the start of the gathering, the whole square was sealed off by up to 1000 policemen, who beat people who were on their way to the square with truncheons. By eye witnesses accounts, scores of protesters were detained and driven by police vans away to an unknown destination.

Aliyev reported that lots of cables and telephone calls had been coming in the last few days from people across the republic, mainly in areas near the front, asking to let them come to Baku to crush the opposition.

He said the opposition should not fear Russian military presence in the republic. "Russian troops will not be introduced in Azerbaijan", he assured. IF Note: The deployment of a peace force in Karabakh is envisaged by a protocol, discussed at a meeting in Moscow last week by the Karabakh Army Commander, the defence ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan and their Russian opposite number who acted as a mediator at that conference. All but the Azerbaijani ministers signed the document. Baku links its signing to the conclusion of an agreement on a comprehensive settlement in Karabakh, providing for the liberation of the captured Azerbaijan lands, the return of refugees, and regional economy reconstruction.

Talking to an Interfax correspondent, a spokesman for the National Independence Party (led by Etibar Mamedov) Rauf Mirgadyrov suggested that "by his statement Aliyev has in fact made it impossible to come to terms with the opposition."

Aliyev, UK Minister Discuss Oil Cooperation

LD2305205394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2023 GMT 23 May 94

[By AZERTAC correspondent Alla Baula for TASS]

[Text] Baku May 24 TASS—"Azerbaijan intends to look into the problem of expanding cooperation with foreign companies in the development of oil," said Azeri President Heydar Aliyev during a meeting with the British Energy Minister Timothy Eggar who arrived in Baku in connection with an international exhibition devoted to oil and gas extraction on the Caspian Sea, which opens here on May 24.

Aliyev expressed satisfaction over the fact that agreements on cooperation between the two countries reached during his recent visit to Great Britain, and in particular, in the field of electric power engineering, were further developed. Aliyev said that such cooperation has good prospects, taking into account Azerbaijan's huge energy potential.

Aliyev said that another round of talks on the development of the "Azeri" and "Chyrag" deposits jointly with foreign partners had been successfully completed in Istanbul on May 20, which brought nearer a possibility of signing contracts.

For his part, the British minister said that London realises the advantages of cooperation with Azerbaijan not only in the sphere of oil and gas development, but in other fields, including in telecommunications and metal industry.

On May 24, Aliyev and Eggar will take part in the opening ceremony of an international exhibition organised by British oil companies and the Azeri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. On display there will be exhibits made by 160 foreign companies specialising in the production of equipment for extracting oil at sea.

Aliyev Stresses National Interests in Oil Talks

NC2405090994 Paris AFP in English 0816 GMT 24 May 94

[Text] Baku, May 24 (AFP)—Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev said Tuesday that negotiations with Western oil companies for a production-sharing agreement would continue but that national interests would be protected.

He said the "preservation of Azerbaijan's interests" would remain paramount in developing the multi-billion dollar project.

Aliyev also moved to reassure members of the western consortium hoping to develop two offshore oil fields with estimated recoverable oil reserves of 4.4 billion barrels.

"We are taking very important and responsible steps in preserving the interests of Azerbaijan but the western (oil) companies will also benefit," Aliyev said at the opening of the International Caspian Oil and Gas Exhibition and conference in the Azerbaijani capital Baku.

A senior consortium source said Aliyev's speech was "very encouraging."

The western oil consortium headed by British Petroleum/Statoil with 36.7 percent also comprises Amoco (24.3 percent), Pennzoil Co/Ramco Oil Services (17 percent), Unocal Corp (16 percent), McDermott (three percent) and the Turkish Petroleum Company (3 percent).

The western consortium has been negotiating the production sharing agreement with Azerbaijani state oil company SOCAR for over three years—an unusually long time in normal oil negotiating terms. The last round of negotiations in Istanbul wound up last week without result.

Negotiations will resume next month.

Deputies Walk Out in Protest of Bishkek Protocol

944K1266A Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[AZERTAC report: "Meeting of the National Assembly"]

[Text] A regular meeting of the National Assembly was held on 18 May. Republic of Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev took part in its work.

After opening the meeting, Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the republic, reported that discussion of the drafts of the Laws of the Azerbaijan Republic "On the Commodity Exchange" and "On Veterinary Science," and also the question of the 1994 budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan had been envisioned. However, taking into account various rumors and conjectures that were being circulated in the republic after the signing of the Bishkek Protocol, and also the appeal of a group of deputies, the head of parliament asked the members of the National Assembly to express their opinion on the advisability of including this question on the meeting agenda. According to the speaker, some circles, inciting passions regarding the Bishkek Protocol, are pursuing specific objectives and attempting to exploit this as a means of attaining power. Rasul Guliyev repeated once again that the protocol was in the nature of a recommendation.

The opinions of the deputies were divided concerning the need to include the issue of the Bishkek Protocol on the agenda and to discuss it at length.

Afiyaddin Dzhallilov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic, who spoke at the meeting and headed the Azerbaijani delegation at the Bishkek meeting, presented information on the work that had been accomplished in the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Jurists Murtuz Aleskerov and Safa Mirzoyev expressed their views on the Bishkek Protocol.

On the suggestion of Rasul Guliyev, members of the National Assembly expressed their position on placing the issue of the Bishkek Protocol on the agenda. Nineteen deputies voted "for," 19—"against," and two abstained. Thus, this issue was not placed on the agenda of the parliament meeting.

After a recess, some of the members of the National Assembly once again raised the issue, which aroused a heated discussion. Shadman Guseynov read out a statement on behalf of members of the National Assembly who came out with a proposal to include this issue on the agenda. After this, 13 members of the National Assembly walked out of the meeting hall. It was proposed to continue the meeting and to express a position with respect to the actions of the people's deputies who had walked out of the hall.

After a short recess, the National Assembly adopted a reply statement in which it condemned the actions of the people's deputies who had walked out of the meeting hall.

With this, the regular meeting of the National Assembly concluded its work.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Calls For Support on Abkhaz Issue

LD2305141794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0545 GMT 23 May 94

[Regular interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council and head of state, by Nato Oniani, date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Oniani] The Abkhazian issue was last week's main topic because documents connected with the internal settlement of the Abkhazian issue were signed. You have said that the opposition has to refrain from impeding the authorities and offer the authorities an opportunity to complete the process of settling the Abkhazian problem. You have also said that a lack of hope will lead the country to destruction and that all our history has been a struggle for freedom, independence, and hope. You have also spoken of a new world order before. In the view of what has happened in Georgia recently, including Abkhazian events, how practical do you think is the hope that we shall be able to settle this problem?

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. Good morning. Regarding the Abkhazian issue, I welcome the fact that our conversation deals with this topic. I should say that we have tried all options now, and all possibilities have been checked, including the military option. I envisage that we are dealing with the optimum version of a practical settlement of the issue. I would like to say once more that I mean a practical settlement rather than plans based on (?reports) and our desires. We have to talk in terms of a really practical version.

I believe that the return of large streams of refugees will begin soon. The main thing is to get this process started. I think this will happen very soon. And I request everyone once again not to pose obstacles to us. The authorities—and all of Georgia—are entrusted with such a large and crucial mission today that we all have to be concerned that no additional difficulties are created and no additional destructive processes take place regardless of whether we agree with this path or not. Especially if a beneficial trend is evident, and I am confident that this will be the case. Proceeding from the common interest, those who do not trust us—and there are quite understandable reasons for such people to exist—should take at least a neutral position, at least at this stage. It will be different if we face failure.

I would say that the very existence of Georgia is connected with the refugee problem. This is how we are dealing with it. I request the refugees, in the first place, not to give in to individual politicians who are guided by certain ambitions or a certain grudge, or who believe only in the efficiency of a variant they are proposing. Do not give in to those who call for an adventurous way. This may prove fatal. I am well aware of their possibilities, and I know that no one is capable of proposing a

more practical version of the settlement than the existing one. This is especially so since important decisions pertaining to this issue will be taken in New York very soon.

A military team, who are to plan the deployment of the peacekeeping forces, and who in fact have already planned it, have left Moscow for New York. The sequence and stages will be made clear in a week or 10 days time, and then the process will begin. We have had a constant link with New York, and, no matter what, the population will be provided with complete information.

The return of Abkhazia and the return to Abkhazia depends of course on our joining the CIS, on engaging in new relations with Russia, and these were purposeful and considered steps. This also depends on our good relations with all states of the world, including the permanent members of the UN Security Council. These are the United States, England, France, our friend the Federal Republic of Germany, and other countries that have been supporting us. All this depends on close cooperation within the UN framework. And this is a sign of the new order I have talked about. All I said does not have anything to do with playing a double game. Some people have fixed ideas, and they believe that the only truth is what they think. Is it a double game to begin establishing good relations with Russia, Ukraine, and other neighboring countries and maintain good relations with the West at the same time when they grant assistance in order to relieve our major pain?

[Oniani] Two parties walked out of the council session last week: the Republican Party and Merab Kostava Society. You also did not attend Supreme Council sessions last week. Can we interpret this as your boycotting the Supreme Council?

[Shevardnadze] And do you think that we had a preliminary agreement? [both laugh] I can honestly say that walking out of the Supreme Council is a very regrettable event by itself, regardless of what group or what person does it. Those elected by the people shall leave the council by the permission of the people. Whatever the suffering and difficulties connected with sitting there, one must be able to manage it.

As for my occasional absence from council sessions, this is caused by urgent affairs, and I am sometimes forced to resort to this sort of protest. I mean not to attend the council sessions especially when I know that it means involvement in aimless debates.

There have been demands that the post of head of state should be abolished, but, since we have already mentioned this topic, I would say that I cannot imagine how we could survive without this post at the present stage. Thus, no matter what we want, we have to adapt to reality. We have to listen less to those who are not in the know. For some of them, the worse the better. Therefore, at the present stage, I reiterate, it is fully justified to combine the posts of head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council. I am convinced of this by my own experience. And if I sometimes cannot be seen in the Supreme Council, this should by no means be regarded as disregard or disrespect toward the council. God forbid.

[Oniani] Georgia will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of Tbilisi State University next week from 23 to 25 May. This is an important occasion for our country. It was a deplorable state of affairs in our science that you spoke about during your meeting with the known financier and philanthropist George Soros. How can the establishment of an independent, international, social organization—Georgia Open Social Foundation—help manage these processes?

[Shevardnadze] I believe that yesterday was a very important day. Especially because it was close to the university celebrations. The Soros Foundation is a very important and serious international creation, and Mr. Soros himself is an unbelievably interesting and very fruitful—if you will, or rather, efficient—figure in the world. He has been doing great things. [passage omitted] The foundation has already done significant things for Georgia. It is probably not a very large number, but 200 to 250 scientists have been practically cooperating with the foundation. Many of them have received grants from the foundations, and others are nominated to receive them. Some young people are getting an education under the sponsorship of the foundation in various countries. However, since yesterday, since the opening of the center of the foundation and its branch in Tbilisi, the activities will acquire a more purposeful and planned character. [passage omitted]

George Soros has an incredibly rich experience and a very well ordered brain, if you will. I think some models we discussed yesterday may be useful for us in order to overcome the crisis even faster. We have reached very interesting ideas. His recommendations are very original, and Georgia may even become a basis for certain experimentation. I do not want to exaggerate the significance of this conversation, but I would say that it was a useful conversation from the conceptual point of view. I have told him what the Georgian authorities are intending to do regarding the coupon, the national currency, and privatization.

I have been thinking long about the process of privatization. We have to deal with privatization of not only land but also industry, construction, and trade, and I do not rule out that my edict pertaining to this process—to speeding up the process—will be issued very soon. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] Batono Eduard, the 26 May celebrations [Georgian Independence Day] are coming this week. Notwithstanding various contradictions and differences in the approach to this issue, Georgia will be celebrating. Something is said to be prepared for this day. Those who we often mention as certain forces, because names of many of them are well known to the official bodies who have to know, intend to do something, are preparing

more disturbances. How well is the population of the city secured from this sort of a surprise, if you will?

[Shevardnadze] The 26 May holiday is a day of statehood. We are heading in this direction, although at a speed slower than desired. Opponents can say that there is no state, that the state has disintegrated, and so on. This was the case two or three years ago. The times were very hard. But now, the state is being formed. [passage omitted] Party differences and contradictions should not blind us. I do not think that any party will attempt to torment the population on this day.

You said that there are rumors about some disturbances. I am not sure what reports we have, but I do believe no one should attempt to create new sources of instability in the capital city on this day. All sound people have to this rule out. On the contrary, everyone has to try to secure a demonstration of our unity and integrity at least on this day. [passage omitted]

Speaking of rumors about some disturbances, I think everyone will have sufficient prudence and sense of responsibility not to repeat past errors. I want to reiterate that Georgia's Independence Day and the university anniversary, which has been planned to coincide with Independence Day—and was therefore shifted—deserve being celebrated by all of us together so that we all together demonstrate readiness to serve our country, our state. [passage omitted]

Opposition Steps Up Activity To Remove Shevardnadze

LD2305164594 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 23 May 94

[Video report by correspondent Nona Maravava]

[Text] The Georgian opposition is actively utilizing the Abkhazian problem in the fight against Shevardnadze.

[Maravava] If Eduard Shevardnadze does not resign by 26 May, then on Georgian independence day the Georgian people should demonstrate for the resignation of the head of state. This statement was made by Irakliy Tsereteli, the leader of the National Independence Party. The idea of holding a protest action has been supported by several other opposition parties.

Today the republic's internal political life is like a time bomb. The agreement on Abkhazia signed in Moscow on 14 May has caused an explosion of indignation in the parliamentary opposition. Demands for the head of state's resignation followed immediately, as did calls for a boycott of parliament sessions until the institution of head of state is abolished and an exclusively parliamentary form of government adopted.

Boris Kakubava, the leader of the Abkhazian Liberation Union, has appealed to the Georgian Supreme Court to instigate proceedings against Shevardnadze as a traitor to his country. Thus, the opposition has set off along the path of radical struggle.

As regards the majority it is in full battle readiness, and is calling for a boycott of supreme legislative body sessions, accusing the opposition of trying to drag Georgia into chaos and war.

The head of state himself, in regard to Georgian statehood day, today appealed to all political forces to make the maximum effort to achieve unity and accord and not put narrow party interests ahead of state interests.

Estonia

President Accepts Ministers' Resignations

LD2305123194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The president's office reports that President Lennart Meri has released Defense Minister Indrek Kannik and Justice Minister Kaido Kama. The defense and justice ministers handed in their letters of resignation Thursday [19 May]. On Friday, Prime Minister Mart Laar submitted a request to President Meri.

According to the procedure for replacing government members, Minister [without portfolio] Liia Hanni is temporarily standing in for the justice minister. According to information from the Defense Ministry, Defense Minister Indrek Kannik is on leave from 20 May. Under government instructions, he fulfilled the duties of finance minister 19 and 20 May. Now Kannik has left without informing the prime minister's office or the state chancellery of the fact. This is what the government's press service told ETA [Estonian Telegraph Agency]. For the time being, Roads and Communications Minister Andi Meister is fulfilling the duties of defense minister.

Rural Centrist Party Ministers To Remain in Cabinet

WS2305115794 Tallinn BNS in English 1939 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 20, BNS—Cabinet members from the Estonian Rural Centrist Party [ERCP], Reform Minister Liia Hanni and Agriculture Minister Jaan Leetsar, announced today after a party council meeting that they will not quit.

Ministers from the National Independence Party and the Social Democratic Party announced their decision to continue in the government earlier.

The ERCP council didn't regard the situation in the Cabinet as a government crisis, but blamed it on personality clashes not rooted in differences over policy.

"The survival of the coalition in the parliament confirms that this isn't a government crisis," the party council maintained.

"Regarding Laar as the reason behind the disagreements, several younger ministers want to solve the conflict through replacing the prime minister. We think it's politically shortsighted to use the prem[illegible]'s guarantee to the Lekto company's loan as a pretext [illegible] place the head of the government," the ERCP council statement reads.

The party council holds the opinion that, in the interests of democratic development, the Pro Patria congress must be given an opportunity to discuss and resolve the differences of opinion between its ministers.

Justice Minister Kaido Kama, who resigned on Thursday [19 May], claimed in an interview to BNS that several other Cabinet members from the National Independence Party and the Rural Centrist Party were considering stepping down.

Hanni said at a news conference today that she continuously discussed the situation with the ERCP council, but that she never considered leaving the government.

"We mustn't attach overmuch importance to what happened, but seek solutions and spend more thought on the future. Pro Patria must itself solve its differences, since a quick stabilization of the situation is necessary with a view to the upcoming elections," Hanni told BNS.

Liberal Ministers To Stay

WS2305135394 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 23, BNS—Members of the Estonian Liberal Democratic Party [ELDP], Culture and Education Minister Paul-Eerik Rummo and Finance Minister Heiki Kranich will for the time being continue as Cabinet members.

Rummo and Kranich were authorized by the ELDP council and the Liberals faction in parliament to continue in the present government pending the outcome of the Pro Patria congress scheduled mid-June in Tallinn.

The decision was made already Thursday [19 May] but the party council and the Liberals faction agreed to make it public only after the coalition council session early this morning.

The ELDP proposes that Pro Patria's coalition partners—the Estonian Rural Centrist Party [ERCP], the Estonian National Independence Party [ENIP], the Estonian Social Democratic Party [ESDP] and the ELDP—should get together and work out their stand on the nomination of a new prime minister as well as other possible Cabinet reshuffles.

The ELDP says its proposal stems from its "concern that the government should remain operational and the coalition survive."

The other coalition partners, ERCP, ENIP and ESDP, announced at the end of last week they don't plan to recall their ministers from the government. Pro Patria member, Foreign Minister Juri Luik told reporters today he has no intention of leaving the Cabinet before the Pro Patria congress.

Two Ministers Serve as Acting Defense Ministers

LD2405091694 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 24 May 94

[Excerpt] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is to meet with defense ministers of the Baltic states today [in Brussels]. However, Estonia has two acting defense ministers at present, claims the HOMMIKULEHT with

reference to its conversation yesterday with the government's press secretary, Ain Saarna. At home the defense minister's duties are carried out by Roads and Communications Minister Andi Meister but Interior Minister Heiki Arike will be travelling to Brussels for the meeting with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. [passage omitted]

Russian Assembly Seeks Non-Citizen Residence Permits

WS2405104894 Tallinn BNS in English 1953 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 23, BNS—The Russian Representative Assembly finds that Estonia should grant permanent residence permits to all the non-citizens who since July 1990 have been permanently living in Estonia, says a declaration the organization adopted at its annual conference May 21.

The assembly proposes to simplify the complicated procedure of issuing residence permits by reregistering all resident list entries made before July 1990.

The statement suggests that persons living in Estonia since July 1990 should be given legal guarantees as to receiving residence permits.

"A short, simple and universally understandable procedure needs to be worked out that wouldn't depend on politics and the arbitrariness of officials," the statement reads. The assembly holds the position that the promises and decrees of the government are insufficient as guarantee.

The Estonian Cabinet ruled at the end of last month to extend the residence permit application deadline and grant the rights of a permanent resident to those holders of temporary residence permits who were entered in permanent resident lists before July 1990. The government decree stemmed from the wave of protests of Russian organizations against the current procedure for registering permit applications and issuing permits.

The Russian Representative Assembly also urges that the issue of granting residence and work permits to Russian retired officers be solved in a "humane manner."

"This issue of principle will probably have to be solved at interstate (Estonian-Russian) negotiations," the statement reads. The assembly suggests that, pending solution, all military retirees be issued temporary residence permits and granted all rights of a permanent resident.

World Bank Urges Increase in State Investments

WS2405105294 Tallinn BNS in English 1953 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 23, BNS—World Bank officials at the recent seminar in Paris on Baltic states' economics advised Estonia to step up state investments to promote economic growth, the Finance Ministry press service told BNS.

The meeting in Paris noted that in the process of economic stabilization state investments have substantially decreased.

A three-year, 4.8-billion-kroon investment program suggested by the World Bank would keep Estonia's foreign debt at a moderate, manageable level, taking into account the credits already extended to the country. The program proposes that 2.1 billion kroons should come from the state budget.

The World Bank conference on the Baltic states' economies devoted one day, May 20, to Estonia. Representatives of the Estonian delegation, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the European Union evaluated the development of the country's economy to date and its investment plans, and meetings of working groups in the spheres of energy, transportation and environment took place. Donor states and organizations reported on their aid programs. The day before, on May 19, the Estonian delegation held negotiations with German, Japanese and Swiss delegations.

The conference passed in a businesslike, friendly atmosphere. Estonian economic reforms were repeatedly praised. The goal of the meeting was neither discussion and approval of concrete projects nor extraction of promises from donors but, rather, the fashioning of general attitudes. It is clear that planning of centrally coordinated investments ensures the best possible representation of all interests in terms of both economic efficiency and social justice, the Finance Ministry press service informs.

Latvia

Security Issues Discussed With North Atlantic Assembly

WS2305115694 Tallinn BNS in English 1246 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 21, BNS—Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs met with North Atlantic Assembly (NAA) President Loic Bouvard and Secretary General Peter Corterier and discussed Latvian security policy and mutual cooperation, the Government Information Agency reported.

During the meeting, Birkavs acquainted the NAA delegation with the signed Latvian-Russian agreements on troop withdrawal and the beginning of their implementation.

Birkavs thanked NAA for support to the Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and urged NATO countries to monitor the implementing of the signed agreements, especially what regards the continued operation of the Skrunda radar facility.

Birkavs reiterated that Latvia's security policy was unambiguously oriented toward joining the North Atlantic alliance. Latvia views any form of military cooperation with Russia as unacceptable, Birkavs added.

The officials also touched on NAA assistance in the formation of the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion.

Corterier and Bouvard also met Friday [20 May] with Latvian Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis, parliament Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs and government officials.

NAA is an interparliamentary organization that acts as a legislative forum of the North Atlantic Assembly member states. It aims at promoting mutual understanding and information exchange.

The three Baltic states and nine other former Communist bloc countries are NAA associate members. It means they may participate in the assembly work and debate but may not vote.

Commission on Army Withdrawal Holds First Session

LD2305165694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The commission set up by the government to control the implementation of the package of the Latvian-Russian agreements signed in Moscow at the end of April on the army withdrawal convened for its first session at the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers today. At the session, the Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development was instructed to submit to the government session on Tuesday a package of documents that are necessary to begin the work of the fund for Skrunda environmental rehabilitation and the repatriation of the military.

The Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Home Guard, for their part, must submit proposals to the government as early as possible on the organization for guarding the new building of the Skrunda radar station that will be taken over.

According to the package of agreements, the Russian Army is still guarding Skrunda radar facilities and the territory taken over from Russia. The issue of organizing the guarding of these facilities will be considered at Tuesday's session of the Cabinet of Ministers.

After the session today, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, head of the commission, visited the Russian Air Force airfield at Lielvarde. According to the army withdrawal schedule submitted by Russia, the Russian Army must leave the Lielvarde airfield by 31 July 1994. There are approximately 300 Russian military stationed at the facility at the moment.

Birkavs is planning to visit the Zvaigznite space reconnaissance station in Ventspils district next week. This is one of the three facilities that, together with Liepaja port and the Skrunda radar station, have been called strategically important by Russia at the interstate talks.

New Data Transmission Network Introduced 20 May

WS2305134394 Tallinn BNS in English 1638 GMT 22 May 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] Public data transmission network, DataLatvija, was introduced May 20 in Latvia. The new network will allow Latvian enterprises, state institutions, banks, border guards, customs and inhabitants to transmit quickly and qualitatively data to subscribers and customers in Latvia and abroad.

Presently, DataLatvija consists of three primary network exchanges in Riga, Rezekne and Ventspils. The network will be extended in future and it will include all Latvia's districts.

The installation of the above mentioned service costs 150 lats, and subscription for a month costs from 15 to 25 lats.

Lithuania

Foreign Ministry on Ukraine's Territorial Integrity

LD2305195794 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry has spoken out for preserving Ukraine's territorial integrity. In its Monday statement the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry says that Lithuania recognized the Ukrainian territorial integrity in February 1994 in accordance with the major international principles. The statement comes on the heel of a decision by the Crimean parliament on 20th May to conduct its foreign policy independently from the Ukraine and to have its own armed forces. The law on the revival of the Crimean constitution was denounced as unlawful by Ukraine. The Crimean authorities in their turn responded by suspending the decision [as heard] of the Ukrainian parliament on the peninsula. The Lithuanian Foreign Office called upon the parties to solve all disagreements by applying sensible and commonly acceptable measures.

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has also urged all political forces and officials involved in the Crimea dispute to approach the issue with responsibility and moderacy [as heard]. In his Monday statement the president said that international organizations should concentrate on producing a quick and peaceful solution to the Crimean issue, preventing the peninsula from turning into a source of instability that could threaten security in the region and on the continent.

Slezevicius Sums up Results of Visit To France

LD2305191294 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 1300 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] France understands ever better Lithuania's economic and political aims and is determined to support them by every means. This was said by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius after his visit to France.

According to him, his meetings with the French president, the head of the government, some members of the Cabinet of Ministers, and representatives of influential financial and trading companies, demonstrated there was a great interest in Lithuania and in the possibilities of political and economic cooperation. This cooperation, claims Adolfas Slezevicius, should become concrete now.

As is known, the Lithuanian delegation led by Adolfas Slezevicius paid a working visit to Paris on 17-21 May.

The Lithuanian prime minister mentioned the European stability pact as one of the most important facts of political support. Adolfas Slezevicius has an especially favorable opinion about the initiative by the French prime minister to hold regional round tables where it will be possible to discuss at the level of European state leaders and experts, for example, relations between the Baltic states and Russia. This will divert our dialogue with Russia in a completely different direction, claims Adolfas Slezevicius.

It is especially important to Lithuania in the sense of economic cooperation to attract as much French capital as possible to Lithuania. Some conditions are essential for this purpose, for instance, the protection of and guarantees to investments, insurance, the abolition of double taxation, etc.

According to Adolfas Slezevicius, expert missions from French insurance companies, the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, and the electronic industry, will soon be coming to Lithuania. Concrete projects in which French companies could take part will be discussed. Technical assistance is possible in the administration of taxes and in financial payments.

Inflation of 1.6 Percent Noted in Apr

WS2305134894 Tallinn BNS in English 1627 GMT 22 May 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] Lithuania registered 1.6 percent in inflation rate in April. Therefore, there is a 13.3 percent growth in prices over the four first months of this year. Over the same period last year, the rate of inflation was 83.1 percent.

Prices for foodstuffs were up a mere 0.4 percent amid yet further drops in April in prices for eggs—by 6.1 percent, herrings—3.7 percent, frozen fish and potatoes—2.1 percent, and meat and vegetable oil—by 1.2 percent.

However, salt grew more expensive by 7 percent, cheese—5.4 percent, vegetables—3.3 percent, cereals—3.2 percent, mineral water—2.5 percent, canned fruit and juice—2.4 percent, and fresh fish—2.1 percent.

In April, prices for clothing rose by 2.7 percent, footwear—1.7 percent with an extremely, by 20.9 percent, rise in rates for footwear repair services.

Housing expenses increased by 11.5 percent which followed, according to statistics estimates, up in garbage collection charges (by 40 percent), maintenance (15.7 percent), housing rents (7.8 percent), and water supply (5.2 percent).

Also rose prices for a number of other manufactured products, i.e. medicines (4.5 percent), garden instruments (4.2 percent), carpets and carpeting articles (3.5 percent), and textiles and bedclothes (2.4 percent).

In April, there was a sizeable growth in transport-related rates: rates for long-run passenger transportation grew by 32.4 percent, repair services—by 9.8 percent, local transportation—by 9.5 percent, and driver's training—8.7 percent.

Last year, rates for dentist's services increased by 12.6 percent, hairdresser's salons—by 7.7 percent, photographer's studios—6.4 percent, funeral services—6.2 percent, furniture repair—5.2 percent.

In April, there was no change in rates for fuels, electricity, communication services, as well as rates for notary, legal consultancy and insurance services.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.